

*COMMUNITY-BASED
NEBRASKA-FOCUSED
GLOBALLY-ENGAGED*

**NEBRASKA MILITARY DEPARTMENT**



‘Prepare and deliver combat ready forces in defense of our nation and stand ready to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of our state.’

— Nebraska Military Department Mission Statement

STATE MISSION

The state mission of the Nebraska National Guard is to provide trained and equipped organizations to protect life and property, and to preserve peace, order and public safety. Nebraska National Guard troops are called to state active duty to execute missions within the state when authorized by the governor.

The adjutant general of Nebraska serves as both the senior military officer in charge of the Nebraska National Guard as well as the State Emergency Management director. To assist the adjutant general with the day-to-day operations of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), an assistant director is appointed.

In the event of a disaster or emergency, local government

responds using local resources. When these resources are deemed inadequate and state resources are required to cope with the situation, local officials can contact NEMA day or night. NEMA assesses the disaster and makes a recommendation to the governor on whether a state declaration is needed. If the governor declares a state emergency, state resources – to include the Nebraska National Guard – can be used within certain restrictions to provide assistance.

NEMA also supports other state agencies and local governments with training and education programs, public information, disaster recovery assistance and disaster planning. In addition, NEMA coordinates state and federal emergency planning and disaster recovery, and homeland security operations in support of the state’s homeland security director.

FEDERAL MISSION

The federal mission of the Nebraska National Guard is to provide United States combatant and geographical commanders with trained and equipped units ready for a national emergency or war, in accordance with U.S. Department of Defense plans. Troops are called to federal service for national defense missions, either in the United States or abroad, when authorized by the president.

The Nebraska National Guard is made up of the Nebraska Army National Guard, which consists of nearly 3,400 Soldiers in units located in 23 communities across Nebraska, and the Nebraska Air National Guard, which is made up of slightly less than 1,000 Airmen located either at the Nebraska National Guard Air Base in Lincoln, Nebraska, or with the 55th Wing at Offutt Air Force Base.

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Heading Toward His Goal:

Staff Sgt. Luke Katz, a member of the Nebraska Army National Guard's Company C (Long Range Surveillance), 1-134th Cavalry, pulls himself along an inverted rope with the goal of touching the Ranger tab during the April 15-17 Best Ranger Competition at Fort Benning, Ga. Katz was Nebraska's first-ever participant in the prestigious Department of the Army competition.



Photo by Sgt. Jason Drager

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NEBRASKA MILITARY DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016

The 2016 Nebraska Military Department Annual Report was produced by the staff of the Nebraska National Guard Public Affairs Office with significant support from the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency Public Information Office, 111th Public Affairs Detachment, 155th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs office, 92nd Troop Command, 67th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, 209th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), 155th Air Refueling Wing, 170th Group, the U.S. Property and Fiscal Office and the State Support Services Division. The opinions expressed in this document are those of the Nebraska Military Department and not necessarily those of the Department of Defense. For additional information, please contact Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes at kevin.j.hynes.mil@mail.mil or 402-309-8390.

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INTRODUCTION

Nebraska Military Department continued to evolve in 2016 to meet unpredictable future

On behalf of the dedicated men and women of the Nebraska National Guard, Nebraska Military Department and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, I present this year's Annual Report.

2016 was indeed a year of challenges and changes as our organization continued to transform our capabilities to meet the tests that await us in an unpredictable future. For more than 162 years, going back to Dec. 23, 1854, when acting Nebraska Territorial Governor Thomas Cumings issued a proclamation encouraging the settlers of the Nebraska Territory to organize in their respective neighborhood into militia units, the men and women of the Nebraska National Guard have been committed to serving their state and nation whenever needed. It's not just what we do... it's who we are.

That's especially important considering that the strategic environment we operate in today continues to evolve in both predictable and unpredictable ways. The risks we, as a state and nation, face continue to change and grow. For example, over the past several years we have continued to see the impact that rogue, ISIS-inspired actors can have when they use violent means to try to create a statement. We have also seen friction within the international community increase as nations such as Russia, China, North Korea and Iran attempt to carve out new spheres of influence. This is the environment that the men and women of the Nebraska Military Department must operate in. These are the world challenges that we must continue to prepare for.

For the Nebraska Army National Guard, 2016 was primarily about the continued transformation of our state's force structure to better meet the needs of the Army while also giving Nebraskans more choices in regards to military service. Over the past year, we began the transformation of the 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade into the new 67th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. Old equipment left the state while new equipment is now flowing into National Guard communities across Nebraska. New Soldiers are being recruited into new occupational specialties – particularly military police and engineering positions – while around one-in-three of our current Army National Guard Soldiers have started retraining into their new specialties.

We additionally formed an important new partnership with the Army's 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas, when we organized, manned, trained and deployed our new 1st Infantry Division Main Command Post – Operational Detachment within a short nine-month timeframe.



For the Nebraska Air National Guard, 2016 was a continuation of a multi-year era of extremely high operational tempo as Nebraska Airmen deployed around the world in support of the United States' international commitments, especially within the U.S. Central Command and U.S. Pacific Command areas of responsibility. In particular, 2016 marked the second straight year and roughly fourth out of five that the men and women of our 155th Air Refueling Wing set records for flying hours, much of which occurred directly in support of our nation's warfighting commanders. Our Airmen continue to put their civilian lives on hold and, with the support of their families and employers, go off to do our nation's business. This a story that all too often goes untold.

And finally the staff of our Nebraska Emergency Management Agency continued to help our local emergency response officials and their communities prepare for a wide array of potential emergencies. I am particularly proud of the work that NEMA has done in forming the Great Plains Interstate Fire Compact that brought together state agencies from Nebraska and South Dakota, federal agencies and local volunteer fire departments to better manage our collective wildland firefighting efforts. This effort is producing significant results. For example, in 2012 we fought two large regional complex wildland fires, which cost roughly \$5 million to deploy National Guard and other assets. Since then, with the help of our Single-Engine Aerial Tanker aircraft, we have spent a total of roughly \$1.2 million.

These are just a few of the many accomplishments that the Nebraska Military Department and Nebraska National Guard have achieved over the past year.

As the adjutant general of Nebraska, I am extremely proud of this organization, our service members and civilian employees, and the families, employers and communities that support us. We thank all Nebraskans for their continued and future support.

With that, I present to you the 2016 Nebraska Military Department Annual Report...

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "D. Bohac".

Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac
Nebraska Adjutant General and
Director of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

2016 HONOREES

2016 Nebraska State Employee, Supervisor of Year

State Employee of the Year

Karen Heath
Nebraska Emergency
Management Agency



State Supervisor of the Year

Donnie Christensen
Nebraska Emergency
Management Agency

2016 Outstanding Airmen of the Year



Enlisted Airman of the Year

Staff Sgt. Tyler Johnson
238th Combat Training
Squadron



NCO of the Year

Staff Sgt. Natalie Nason
155th Civil Engineering
Squadron



First Sergeant of the Year

Senior Master Sgt.
Brandon Viet
155th Maintenance Squadron



Senior NCO of the Year

Master Sgt.
Clashaud Robbins
170th Group

2016 Soldier, Noncommissioned Officer of the Year



Soldier of the Year

Sgt. Calvin Koziol
Company C (Long Range Surveillance),
1-134th Cavalry



NCO of the Year

Staff Sergeant Josh Kushen
1st Battalion, 209th Regiment
(Regional Training Institute)

TOP PERFORMERS

Military Department employees, National Guard Soldiers, Airmen, families continue to lead nation



Acting Deputy Commanding General of U.S. Strategic Command: Maj. Gen. Richard Evans III of the Nebraska Air National Guard made history when he was selected to serve as the acting deputy commander of the U.S. Strategic Command for roughly six weeks beginning in the summer of 2016. Evans, former commander of the Nebraska Air National Guard's 155th Air

Refueling Wing, was the first member of the Air National Guard to ever serve as an acting deputy commanding general of U.S. Strategic Command.

SMART Award: Sgt. Scott Witthuhn, a surface maintenance mechanic from Fremont, Nebraska, was honored in September by the Army Supply and Maintenance Assessment and Review Team (SMART) for inventing a device that is key to ensuring a high readiness rate for an entire family of skid steer loaders. Witthuhn's invention put an end to a chronic drained-battery issue, saving the nation time and money. His solution will now be implemented



throughout the U.S. Army.

Organizational Excellence Award: Members of the Nebraska Air National Guard Joint Force Headquarters staff earned their third-straight U.S. Air Force Organizational Excellence Award in 2016.

Spouse of the Year: Cara Loken, wife of Maj. John Loken, a 155th Air Refueling Wing maintenance officer, was named the 2016 Armed Forces Insurance National Guard Military Spouse of the Year. Cara was nominated by her husband for the hard work she puts into helping other military families.



Leapfest International: Four parachutists from the Nebraska Army National Guard's Detachment 2, 165th Quartermaster Company, from the Mead Training Site earned the top team award at the 33rd Annual Leapfest International Static Line Parachute Competition on Aug. 6 in West Kingston, Rhode Island. The 165th Quartermaster team, comprised of Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Borrell, Staff Sgt. Isvi Machuca, Sgt. Beau

Meuhling and Sgt. Trace Thompson, placed first out of 30 international and 30 state teams.

Best Ranger: Staff Sgt. Luke Katz, an infantryman, and Staff Sgt. Nathan Neuirth, a team leader with Company C (Long Range Surveillance), 1-134th Cavalry, were the first two Nebraska Guardsmen in its history to be invited to compete at the Annual David E. Grange Jr. Best Ranger Competition at Fort Benning, Georgia. Due to a training injury weeks before the competition, Neuirth was unable to compete, but Katz and his partner Sgt. 1st Class Jon Knea of the California National Guard finished 17th out of the field of 50 teams in the competition.



National Champions: Food service specialists and field sanitation team members of Headquarters and Headquarters

Detachment, 110th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, won the national Philip A. Connelly award in the National Guard field kitchen category. The unit won the award after previously taking top honors

at state and regional cooking competitions.

Earning the Expert Field Medical Badge: Maj. Dennis Rieke, Sgt. Jerry Rhein and Spc. Samuel Vanderheiden earned the coveted Expert Field Medical Badge. Of the 214 candidates competing for the badge in October, only 41 earned it - including six from the National Guard. Of those six, three were from Nebraska. Rhein and Vanderheiden are both medics with the 313th Medical Company (Ground Ambulance) while Rieke is a physician assistant with the Nebraska Medical Detachment.

Contracting Leader: Randall Hansen of the Nebraska National Guard's contracting office earned the 2016 "Leadership in Contracting" award presented by the National Guard Bureau's Principal Advisor Responsible for Contracting in March during a training workshop in Norman, Oklahoma, in March.



2016 TIMELINE

National Guard focused on state, federal missions in 2016, while setting table for 2017

For members of the Nebraska National Guard and Nebraska Military Department, 2016 will go down in history as a period of major transition as the organization focused on transforming for the future while also continuing to respond to local, state and national missions.

In particular, 2016 saw the continued deployment of Army National Guard and Air National Guard units around the globe in response to a wide variety of national commitments including the first-ever development and deployment of the Army Guard's new 1st Infantry Division Main Command Post – Operational

Detachment in support of the active Army's 1st Infantry Division. It also saw the continued historic flying operations of the Air Guard's 155th Air Refueling Wing in support of America's combatant commanders around the globe.

Additionally, the Nebraska National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency continued to refine their emergency response plans while conducting several major exercises to test the Nebraska Military Department's ability to respond to a wide array of natural and man-made disasters.

FEBRUARY

7: Keith Schell promoted to brigadier general, installed as assistant adjutant general, Air, during a ceremony at the Joint Force Headquarters in Lincoln.

MARCH



3: Members of Lincoln's new 1st Infantry Division Main Command Post – Operational Detachment participate in a 1st Infantry Division command post exercise.

4-6: Soldiers from Hastings' Troop A, 1-134th Cavalry, travel to Fort Riley, Kan., for scout training in preparation for their upcoming summer annual training.

7: Randy Hansen receives the national Leadership in Contracting Award during the annual National Guard Bureau Principal Responsible for Contracting Workshop in Norman, Okla.

APRIL

1-3: Nebraska's best Soldiers and noncommissioned officers compete at the Greenleaf Training Site for the state's annual Best Warrior titles. Staff Sgt. Josh Kushen earns the top NCO title while Sgt. Calvin Koziol wins the top Soldier award.

APRIL

2: Wendy K. Johnson makes history as the first woman in the history of the Nebraska Air National Guard to be promoted to the rank of brigadier general.



2-4: National Guard Bureau chief Gen. Frank S. Grass travels to Nebraska to visit Nebraska National Guard Soldiers and Airmen.

15-17: Staff Sgt. Luke Katz, a member of Beatrice's Company C (Long Range Surveillance), 1-134th Cavalry, becomes the first Nebraska Army National Guard Soldier to compete in the annual U.S. Army Best Ranger Competition at Fort Benning, Ga., where he finishes 17th overall.



22: Former Nebraska National Guard adjutant general Lt. Gen. Tim Kadavy makes his first official visit to Nebraska after becoming the director of the Army National Guard.

23-24: Nebraska Army and Air National Guardsmen and members of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency participate in the annual TERREX16 exercise at Fort Robinson.



MAY

1: More than 120 National Guardsmen from across the nation compete in the annual Lincoln National Guard Marathon.

MAY



7-8: Nebraska National Guard hosts the "Guardians of Freedom" airshow and open house in Lincoln.



11: Ten Soldiers from Omaha's 195th Forward Support Company (Special Operations) (Airborne) welcomed home after a six-month deployment to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

20: Food service specialists and field sanitation team members from the Lincoln-based Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 110th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, honored in Chicago, Ill., after winning the prestigious national Philip A. Connelly award in the National Guard Field Kitchen category.

JUNE

4-18: Soldiers from Lincoln's 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade use their two-week annual training at Fort Riley, Kan., to work on their plans to transform into the 67th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

2016 TIMELINE

JUNE

4-8: Soldiers from the Nebraska Army National Guard's 1-134th Cavalry (Mead, Beatrice, Hastings) conduct gunnery exercises during their two-week annual training at Fort Riley, Kan.



4-13: Soldiers from Lincoln's 111th Public Affairs Detachment travel to Grenada in support of U.S. Southern Command's "Tradewinds 2016" exercise.



6: Members of the Nebraska Air National Guard's 155th Civil Engineer Squadron practice clearing rubble from roads during a disaster response exercise at Camp Ashland.

22-23: Sgt. Calvin Koziol, a member of Beatrice's Company C (Long Range Surveillance), 1-134th Cavalry, wins the national National Guard Soldier of the Year competition at Camp Edwards, Mass.

26: The newly-organized Nebraska Army National Guard 1st Infantry Division Main Command Post – Operational Detachment stands up in Lincoln.

JULY

4: The new Nebraska National Guard Museum dedicates first three major displays in Seward.

5: Governor Pete Ricketts declares July 5 to be "Sergeant Calvin Koziol Day" after the Beatrice-based Soldier earned Nebraska's first-ever national Army National Guard Soldier of the Year title during the "Best Warrior" competition in Massachusetts.

JULY

9-22: Members of Wahoo's 623rd Engineer Company (Vertical Construction) work on several construction projects at the Greenlief Training Site near Hastings during their two-week annual training.

18-21: Nebraska Army National Guard Soldiers from the 1-376th Aviation (Security and Support) participate in a major natural disaster response exercise at Volkfield, Wisc.



24 – Aug. 7: More than 130 Nebraska Army National Guard Soldiers participate in the state's first "Fit For Life" annual training designed to help the Soldiers meet their physical fitness requirements for future training and promotion opportunities.

27: Staff Sgt. Larry Jackson from Camp Ashland's 209th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) honored as the Transportation Corps' 2015 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year during a ceremony at Fort Lee, Va.

AUGUST



4: Members of the Nebraska Air National Guard's 155th Security Forces Squadron and Nebraska National Guard air base security specialists conduct training with the Lincoln Police Department's SWAT.

5: Around 90 Nebraska Army National Guard Soldiers wished well at Lincoln's Haymarket Park as they begin their first deployment as members of the newly-organized 1st Infantry Division Main Command Post – Operational Detachment.

6: Four Nebraska Army National Guard paratroopers from the Mead Training Site's Detachment 2, 165th Quartermaster Company, earn the top team award at the 33rd Annual Leapfest International Static Line Parachute Competition in West Kingston, Rhode Island.

9-12: Nebraska Army and Air National Guard firefighters receive "Red Card" certification training, allowing them to fight wildfires on federal and state land.

SEPTEMBER

11: The 734th "Prairie Steel" Transportation Battalion transitions to its new mission as the 734th Brigade Support Battalion during a ceremony at the Kearney Armed Forces Readiness Center.



16: Four Soldiers from the 1969th Contingency Contracting Team are bid farewell

before the start of an overseas deployment in support of U.S. Central Command.

23: Seven Soldiers from Omaha's 195th Forward Support Company (Special Operations) (Airborne) wished well before the start of an overseas deployment to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

25: Ten Officer Candidates and six Warrant Officer Candidates graduate from their commissioning programs at Camp Ashland Military Academy.

OCTOBER

14-16: Members of the Nebraska Army and Air National Guard support the Boy Scouts of American Mid-America Conference Boy Scout Jubilee at the Eugene T. Mahoney State Park near Ashland.

18: Members of the Nebraska Army National Guard's newly-organized 1st Infantry Division Main Command Post – Operational Detachment from Lincoln make final preparations before deploying to the Middle East in Support of Fort Riley's 1st Infantry Division Headquarters.

NOVEMBER

5: The Lincoln-based 67th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade officially transitions to its new mission during at ceremony at the Nebraska Army National Guard's "Spirit of '76" armory in Lincoln.

DECEMBER

13: The Nebraska National Guard celebrates the National Guard's 380th Birthday at the State Capitol in Lincoln.



2016 TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

PERSONNEL

Traditional National Guard	3,850
<i>Includes 577 full-time Military Federal Technicians</i>	
Active Guard Reserve Title 32.....	494
Active Duty Title 10	22

Total Military Personnel	4,366
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Federal Civil Service Technicians	22
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State Personnel Serving Army National Guard*	54
State Personnel Serving Air National Guard*	60
State Personnel Serving Both Army & Air National Guard*	16
State Personnel Serving NEMA*	37

Total State Employees	167**
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** As of Dec. 31, 2016.*

***Includes 130 State Employees Serving Army and Air National Guard (84 employees are 100% Federal funded and 46 are funded by a combination of Federal/State resources. Vacant positions are not included.*

Military Department Total Personnel	4,555
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PAYROLL

Total Annual Federal Payroll	\$136,219,449
Total Annual State Employee Payroll.....	\$2,035,403

Military Department Total Payroll.....	\$138,254,852
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OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FUNDING

Operational Federal Funds	\$34,556,007
Operational State Funds	\$3,392,963

Military Department Total Operational Funds.....	\$37,948,970
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PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Equipment and Assets	\$1,267,193,047
Real Property	\$1,144,595,335

OTHER

Estimated Value of Indirect Jobs Created	\$52,544,630
Soldiers and Airmen Benefits	\$48,350,121

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ECONOMIC IMPACT

PAYROLL BY NEBRASKA CITIES (FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 1, 2015 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2016)

Lincoln	\$ 27,805,666	Bennington	\$ 473,037
Omaha	\$ 9,826,632	Gering	\$ 470,234
Kearney	\$ 2,661,240	Wayne	\$ 457,117
Gretna	\$ 2,163,876	Scottsbluff	\$ 452,335
Grand Island	\$ 1,859,006	Ashland	\$ 441,081
Wahoo	\$ 1,421,958	North Platte	\$ 433,392
Bellevue	\$ 1,296,711	Aurora	\$ 420,869
Elkhorn	\$ 1,228,465	Syracuse	\$ 411,879
Hastings	\$ 1,028,915	Nebraska City	\$ 381,509
Papillion	\$ 1,019,034	Bennet	\$ 380,606
Seward	\$ 844,840	Roca	\$ 355,460
Fremont	\$ 832,955	Denton	\$ 349,529
Norfolk	\$ 788,521	Crete	\$ 309,051
Hickman	\$ 771,244	Blair	\$ 295,024
Beatrice	\$ 745,499	Greenwood	\$ 276,084
Chadron	\$ 708,937	Other Cities	\$ 12,859,039
Waverly	\$ 671,546		
La Vista	\$ 553,800	<i>Total Nebraska Cities</i>	\$ 76,012,162
Richland	\$ 512,134	Other States	\$ 3,310,280
Firth	\$ 504,921	Unassigned	\$ 813,814

Total Payroll \$ 80,136,256

APPROPRIATED RESOURCES

GROSS ANNUAL PAYROLL*

Traditional Guard	\$ 30,266,360
Active Guard Reserve Title 32	\$ 31,725,320
Federal Civilian	\$ 18,144,576

Total Payroll \$ 80,136,256

**Total Payroll does not include payroll data from mobilized Soldiers.*

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

Facilities Programs	\$ 13,050,023
Environmental	\$ 876,075
Training System Support	\$ 1,498,000
Telecommunications / C4IM Service	\$ 829,600
Security Guards	\$ 779,200
Electronic Security System	\$ 252,500
Distributive Learning	\$ 247,000
Antiterrorism	\$ 85,000

Total \$ 17,617,398

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Equipment and Supplies	\$3,300,648
Repair Parts and Services	\$2,451,835
Fuel/POL	\$1,532,469
Information Technology	\$1,449,972
Travel, Training, and GSA	\$1,014,501
Food	\$ 961,179
Local Purchases	\$901,250
Medical and Dental	\$409,240
Printing/Postal	\$72,102
Other	\$113,359

Total \$ 12,206,555

**Total Appropriated Resources
\$ 109,960,209**

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ECONOMIC IMPACT



Photo by Sgt. Jason Drager

MEDEVAC: Spc. Matthew Hall, Sgt. Jacob Shindollar and Pfc. Sabrina Gardner evacuate an injured role-player during an exercise at the Mead Training Site, Sept. 10. Hall, Shindollar and Gardner were part of a squad that participated in the 2016 Squad Medic Challenge hosted by the Nebraska National Guard.

EQUIPMENT AND ASSETS

Ground vehicles.....	\$ 265,950,301
Aircraft	\$ 250,208,561
Communication equipment	\$ 79,539,254
Firefighting, rescue, safety & support equipment	\$ 138,828,340
Information technology equipment	\$ 27,660,538
Clothing and equipment	\$ 22,236,374
Weapons	\$ 11,653,778
Furniture	\$ 878,151
Total	\$796,955,297

SUMMARY OF PERSONNEL

Traditional National Guard.....	3,001
<i>Includes 332 full-time Military Federal Technicians</i>	
Active Guard Reserve Title 32	365
Active Duty Title 10	21
Total Army National Guard Strength	3,387
Federal Civil Service Technicians	20
State Employees	54*
<i>*As of Dec. 31, 2016</i>	
<i>31 Employees are 100% Federally funded</i>	
<i>23 Employees are Federal/State combined funded</i>	

Total Personnel 3,4561

BENEFITS & INCENTIVES

Post 9/11 GI Bill (eligible maximum benefit)	\$ 31,179,886
Montgomery GI Bill (eligible benefits)	\$ 9,228,636
Montgomery GI Bill Kicker (eligible benefits) ...	\$ 2,030,400
Federal Tuition Assistance	\$ 652,574
State of Nebraska Tuition Assistance	\$ 237,059
Bonuses	\$ 1,234,125
Student Loan Repayment Program	\$ 536,484

Total Benefits & Incentives \$ 45,099,164

REAL PROPERTY

Land Managed.....	6,343 Acres
Facilities	2,719,622 Square Feet

Total Land & Facilities Value..... \$740,643,335

ESTIMATED VALUE OF INDIRECT JOBS

TYPE OF PERSONNEL	# OF BASE JOBS	MULTIPLIER*	INDIRECT JOBS
Traditional Guard	3,001	0.16	480
Active Guard Reserve Title 32	365	0.41	150
Active Duty Title 10	21	0.41	9
Federal Civilian	332	0.55	183
State Employees	49.5	0.55	27
Contractors	35	0.55	19

Total Indirect Jobs 867

Estimated Dollar Value of Jobs \$ 37,747,830**

**Source AFMAN 65-506*

***Total Indirect Jobs multiplied by average Lincoln, Nebraska salary as reported by the United States Department of Labor, http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_30700.htm#00-0000.*

AIR NATIONAL GUARD ECONOMIC IMPACT

PAYROLL BY NEBRASKA CITIES (FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 1, 2015 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2016)

Lincoln	\$ 21,007,214	Bennington	\$ 224,436
Omaha	\$ 5,797,060	Sprague	\$ 213,831
Papillion	\$ 4,014,399	Fremont	\$ 210,598
Bellevue	\$ 2,592,219	Herman	\$ 206,501
Raymond	\$ 776,153	Roca	\$ 192,810
Gretna	\$ 767,017	Beaver Crossing	\$ 190,767
Waverly	\$ 644,940	Denton	\$ 169,872
Milford	\$ 561,796	Kearney	\$ 168,759
La Vista	\$ 511,974	Prague	\$ 165,346
Plattsmouth	\$ 414,613	Pleasant Dale	\$ 161,639
Seward	\$ 384,291	Adams	\$ 161,572
Sterling	\$ 361,965	Ceresco	\$ 156,175
Hickman	\$ 323,428	Elba	\$ 154,696
Cedar Creek	\$ 314,089	Other Cities (less than \$150,000)	\$ 3,158,781
Malcolm	\$ 296,932		
Firth	\$ 295,897	<i>Total Nebraska Cities</i>	<i>\$ 45,916,851</i>
Elkhorn	\$ 291,233		
Palmyra	\$ 281,522	Other States	\$ 1,621,163
Ashland	\$ 267,430		
Ralston	\$ 248,321	<i>Total Payroll.....</i>	<i>\$ 47,538,014</i>
Garland	\$ 228,575		

APPROPRIATED RESOURCES

GROSS ANNUAL PAYROLL

Traditional Guard	\$ 19,189,651
Active Guard Reserve Title 32	\$ 11,438,849
Federal Civilian	\$ 16,909,514
Total Payroll	\$ 47,538,013

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

Fire Protection	\$ 2,677,100
Facilities Operations and Maintenance	\$ 1,120,400
Security Guards	\$ 522,300
Total	\$ 4,319,800

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Flying Program	\$ 117,598
Supplies and Equipment	\$ 1,916,440
Operational Travel	\$ 1,209,062
Education & Training Travel	\$ 562,389
Other Services	\$ 316,536
Base Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 1,369,409
Communications	\$ 90,088
Environmental	\$ 25,194
Total	\$ 5,606,716

Total Appropriated Resources
\$ 57,464,529

AIR NATIONAL GUARD ECONOMIC IMPACT



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jason Melton

Birds Of A Feather: A Nebraska Air National Guard KC-135R Stratotanker escorts the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels to Lincoln on May 4 for the Guardians of Freedom Open House and Airshow.

EQUIPMENT AND ASSETS

Aircraft	\$ 414,900,000
Support Equipment.....	\$ 19,960,939
Vehicles	\$ 10,189,579
Aircraft Spare Parts	\$ 7,243,716
Mobility Equipment	\$ 6,754,321
Warehouse Inventory.....	\$ 4,965,627
Mobility Assets.....	\$ 2,239,848
Information Technology Assets.....	\$ 3,614,516
Munitions	\$ 369,204

Total \$ 470,237,750

SUMMARY OF PERSONNEL

Traditional National Guard.....	849
<i>Includes 205 full-time Military Federal Technicians</i>	
Active Guard Reserve Title 32	129
Active Duty Title 10	1
Total Air National Guard Strength	979
Federal Civil Service Technicians.....	2
State Employees	60*

*As of Dec. 31, 2016

53 Employees are 100% Federally funded

7 Employees are 75% Federal/25% State combined funded

Total Personnel 1,041

BENEFITS & INCENTIVES

Montgomery GI Bill (eligible benefits).....	\$ 1,118,704
Montgomery GI Bill Kicker (eligible benefits) \$	1,070,000
State of Nebraska Tuition Assistance	\$ 314,580
Bonuses	\$ 697,500
Student Loan Repayment Program.....	\$ 50,173

Total Benefits & Incentives \$ 3,250,957

REAL PROPERTY

Land	
Owned	97 Acres
Leased.....	17 Acres
Total	114 Acres

Facilities 356,067 Square Feet

Total Land & Facilities Value..... \$403,952,000

ESTIMATED VALUE OF INDIRECT JOBS

TYPE OF PERSONNEL	# OF BASE JOBS	MULTIPLIER*	INDIRECT JOBS
Traditional Guard	849	0.16	136
Active Guard Reserve Title 32	129	0.41	53
Active Duty Title 10	1	0.41	0
Federal Civilian	205	0.55	113
State Employees	66	0.55	36
Contractors	4.5	0.55	2

Total Indirect Jobs 340

Estimated Dollar Value of Jobs \$ 14,796,800**

*Source AFMAN 65-506

**Total Indirect Jobs multiplied by average Lancaster County, Nebraska, salary as reported by the United States Department of Labor.

NEBRASKA MILITARY DEPARTMENT & NEMA ECONOMIC IMPACT

State Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

544 NATIONAL AND STATE GUARD

	General Funds	Cash Funds	Federal Funds	Total
Salary	\$ 1,175,888	\$ 7,420	\$ 5,371,702	\$ 6,555,010
Benefits	\$ 335,730	\$ -0-	\$ 1,721,459	\$ 2,057,189
SOS Temp Services-Personnel.....	\$ 387	\$ -0-	\$ 102,121	\$ 102,508
Utilities.....	\$ 477,155	\$ 22,736	\$ 1,834,187	\$ 2,334,078
Repair & Maintenance-Real Property.....	\$ 877,016	\$ 70,195	\$ 8,161,140	\$ 9,108,351
Supplies.....	\$ 91,460	\$ 33,594	\$ 797,086	\$ 922,140
Equipment - Non-Capitalized	\$ 29,577	\$ 22,321	\$ 25,240	\$ 77,138
Contract Services	\$ 262,353	\$ 145,414	\$ 4,729,943	\$ 5,137,710
Miscellaneous Operations Expense	\$ 156,358	\$ 139,968	\$ 1,052,140	\$ 1,348,466
Travel Expenses	\$ 18,915	\$ -0-	\$ 68,790	\$ 87,705
Machinery & Equipment.....	\$ 256,824	\$ -0-	\$ 204,572	\$ 461,396
Vehicles (Supplies/Equipment).....	\$ 9,448	\$ -0-	\$ 41,886	\$ 51,334
Miscellaneous Capital Outlay/Fixed Assets.....	\$ 13,144	\$ 363	\$ 40,467	\$ 53,974
	\$ 3,704,255	\$ 442,011	\$ 24,150,733	\$28,296,999

548 TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

	General Funds	Cash Funds	Federal Funds	Total
Government Aid	\$ 627,074	-0-	-0-	\$ 627,074

545 NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

	General Funds	Cash Funds	Federal Funds	Total
Salary	\$ 592,000	\$ 210,095	\$ 1,118,613	\$ 1,920,708
Benefits	\$ 197,467	\$ 68,715	\$ 333,405	\$ 599,587
SOS Temp Services-Personnel	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Utilities	\$ 15,000	\$ -0-	\$ 10,000	\$ 25,000
Repair & Maintenance-Real Property.....	\$ 5,000	\$ 500	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,500
Supplies.....	\$ 25,150	\$ 49,040	\$ 19,450	\$ 93,640
Equipment - Non-Capitalized	\$ 5,200	\$ 6,447	\$ 8,704	\$ 20,351
Contract Services.....	\$ 439,375	\$ 2,100	\$ 38,633	\$ 480,108
Miscellaneous Operations Expense	\$ 85,043	\$ 58,400	\$ 122,159	\$ 265,602
Travel Expenses	\$ 36,161	\$ 29,200	\$ 37,961	\$ 103,322
Machinery & Equipment	\$ 55,000	\$ 116,784	\$ -0-	\$ 171,784
Vehicles (Supplies/Equipment)	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,700	\$ 600	\$ 3,500
Miscellaneous Capital Outlay/Fixed Assets.....	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Government Aid	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 1,666,192	\$ 1,666,192
	\$ 1,456,596	\$ 542,981	\$ 3,360,717	\$ 5,360,294

192 GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY FUND

	General Funds	Cash Funds	Federal Funds	Total
Salary	\$ 50,000	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 50,000
Contract Services.....	\$140,000	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$140,000
Government Aid	\$14,547,713	\$ 478,302	\$ 4,500,000	\$19,526,015
	\$14,737,713	\$ 478,302	\$ 4,500,000	\$19,716,015

JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Adjutant General

Maj. Gen. Daryl L. Bohac

Deputy Adjutant General/

Assistant Adjutant General, Army

Brig. Gen. Richard H. Dahlman

Assistant Adjutant General, Air

Brig. Gen. Keith A. Schell

Army Land Component Commander

Brig. Gen. Kevin D. Lyons

Assistant Adjutant General, Joint

Brig. Gen. Wendy K. Johnson

Army National Guard Chief of Staff

Col. Richard A. Gray

Joint Staff Chief of Staff

Col. Chris S. Collins

Army National Guard

Command Chief Warrant Officer

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Teresa A. Domeier

Army National Guard

State Command Sergeant Major

Command Sgt. Marty L. Baker

Air National Guard

State Command Chief Master Sergeant

Command Chief Master Sgt. Douglas J. Lierz

Other Notable Nebraska National Guard Officers

- ♦ Lt. Gen. Timothy Kadavy, Director, Army National Guard
- ♦ Maj. Gen. Richard J. Evans III, Mobilization Assistant to the Deputy Commander, U.S. Strategic Command
- ♦ Maj. Gen. Judd Lyons, Military Deputy to the Senior Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan
- ♦ Maj. Gen. Michael D. Navrkal, Special Assistant to the Deputy Director, Army National Guard



Location: Lincoln, Nebraska

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NEBRASKA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD STAFF

♦ Successfully executed the opening phases of the Army National Guard transformation plan that was unveiled in November 2015. Among the milestones was the successful coordination of state-wide Army National Guard transformation efforts designed to bring new military units into the state that better meet the needs of the U.S. Army, increase military occupational specialty options across Nebraska and give Nebraska Soldiers increased professional and promotion opportunities from “Recruitment until Retirement” closer to their homes of record.

♦ Developed and put into action plans designed to help prepare and retain Nebraska Army National Guard Soldiers to meet the requirements of future deployments and transformation activities to include the first-ever Nebraska Army National Guard “Fit For Life” annual training activity in July and August. “Fit For Life” brought Soldiers together from across Nebraska and matched them with a specially-selected team of Nebraska Army National Guard fitness and nutrition specialists. The goal was to help Soldiers regain focus on their physical fitness and quality of life activities so that they would be eligible to receive new transformation-related training or promotion opportunities.

♦ The new three-person 105th Military History Detachment stood up in October as a part of the Nebraska National Guard’s Joint Force Headquarters.

♦ Focused on Soldier recruiting and retention activities designed to increase rates across Nebraska. These activities, which included “Guard Your Future” events, helped increase Nebraska Army National Guard retention rates to above 90



Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

All Together Now: Soldiers conduct physical fitness training during the first-ever “Fit For Life” annual training at Camp Ashland, Neb.

percent, which in turn has contributed positively to Nebraska Army National Guard unit readiness rates across the state.

NEBRASKA AIR NATIONAL GUARD STAFF

♦ Successfully created processes documented in three wing instructions - Enlisted Career Management, Developmental Education and Enlisted Airman Promotions/Demotions Process, to improve force management processes to ensure Nebraska Airmen are treated fairly and consistently. The new processes fostered a culture of trust by providing Nebraska Air National Guard leaders with an agreed upon guidance crafted by enlisted personnel.

♦ Several Nebraska Air National Guard members are serving shoulder-to-shoulder with active duty officials on the national stage where they are working to change policies and procedures

JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONTINUED)

to better the Air Force's Total Force. These national positions include mobility assistant to the commander of United States Strategic Air Command, Air National Guard chaplain assistant for United States Northern Command, and chairman of the Air National Guard Reserve Order Writing System Task Force.

- ♦The members of the Nebraska Air National Guard's staff were named the recipients of their third U.S. Air Force Organizational Excellence Award.
- ♦Members of the Nebraska Air National Guard staff provided planning, staging and execution expertise for a number of major public events such as the Nebraska National Guard "Guardians of Freedom" airshow and open house, the Lincoln/National Guard Marathon and the Boy Scout Jubilee.

NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD JOINT STAFF

- ♦Developed plans to reorganize the Nebraska National Guard's domestic response capabilities into standing task force structures that provide better predictability for the various National Guard personnel and equipment that may be required for specific types of state emergencies (Task Force Weather, Task Force Wildland Fire, Task Force National Guard Emergency Response Force, etc.).
- ♦Conducted two table-top emergency response exercises involving the use of Nebraska National Guard personnel and equipment for potential winter storms or wildland fire emergencies.
- ♦Participated with local, state and regional officials in the TERREX 16 Blazing Prairie exercise at Fort Robinson, Nebraska, and surrounding areas. The exercise was designed around a fictionalized terrorist event involving the intentional setting of fires in Nebraska's publicly-owned forests.

2017 PRIORITIES/GOALS

NEBRASKA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD STAFF

- ♦Continue to focus on putting together the new Nebraska Army National Guard cyber protection team that was announced in December 2015. This will include continuing to develop manning, stationing and training goals for the new team, while also refining those plans to reflect current and potential cyber threats.
- ♦Continue to focus on assisting Nebraska Army National Guard Soldiers, families and employers before, during and after deployments to ensure that all continue to be contributing members of the overall Nebraska Army National Guard team.
- ♦Continue to focus on recruiting and retention efforts to attract men and women from across Nebraska into its ranks, while ensuring that current members of the organization are ready



Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

State-Wide Planning: Members of the Nebraska Army National Guard use a floor-sized map of Nebraska to coordinate the force structure changes taking place within the organization.



Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

New General: Wendy Johnson takes the oath of office as a brigadier general shortly after becoming the first woman to achieve general officer rank in the Nebraska Air National Guard.

to capitalize on the professional and promotion opportunities that will occur as part of the state-wide transformation activities.

NEBRASKA AIR NATIONAL GUARD STAFF

- ♦Continually improve Nebraska Airmen's lives by improving processes for pay, travel and personnel actions. By alleviating issues for basic requirements, Nebraska Airmen will be better able to focus on their missions and be better equipped to serve their communities, state and nation.
 - ♦Remain relevant on the national level by ensuring the organization develops the best Airmen through continuous training while also providing opportunities to them to showcase their abilities. To accomplish this goal, Nebraska Airmen will compete for positions outside of Nebraska and overseas.
- ### NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD JOINT STAFF
- ♦Continue to develop Nebraska National Guard domestic emergency response plans that best meet the predictable and unpredictable needs of future state emergencies.
 - ♦Continue to take part in and conduct multiple domestic emergency response activities annually in preparation for the 2020 Vigilant Guard exercise.

92ND TROOP COMMAND



Commander

Col. Eric J. Teegerstrom

Senior Enlisted Leader

Command Sgt. Maj. Richard D. Cruickshank

Headquarters Location

Lincoln, Nebraska

Subordinate Units*

110th Multifunctional Medical Battalion
1-134th Cavalry
1-376th Aviation (Security and Support)
72nd Civil Support Team (CST)

Medical Detachment
195th Forward Support Company
(Special Operations) (Airborne)
111th Public Affairs Detachment

Communities with 92nd Troop Command Armories or Readiness Centers

Beatrice	Mead
Broken Bow	Norfolk
Columbus	North Platte
Grand Island	Omaha (North Omaha RC)
Hastings (Greenlief Training Site)	Sidney
Lincoln (Penterman, East Campus)	Wayne
McCook	

* Note: The Subordinate Units listed represent the units assigned to the 92nd Troop Command at the end of Calendar Year 2016. The units listed in the accomplishment page represent those units that were assigned to the organization prior to the transformation and re-missioning of the 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade into its current mission as the 67th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

Saw Job: A Soldier assigned to the 623rd Engineer Company (Vertical Construction) uses a saw to cut a post for one of the 18 obstacles being built for a new course at the Greenlief Training Site near Hastings, Neb.



Photo by Spc. Lisa Crawford

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS*

♦The 110th Multifunctional Medical Battalion won the 48th Annual Philip A Connelly Award for Excellence in Army Food Service in the National Guard field kitchen category. Additionally, the 313th Medical Company placed third nationally for the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence.

♦The 126th Chemical Battalion, along with elements from the Nebraska and Iowa Air National Guard, conducted Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and high-yield Explosives (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package external evaluation at the Mead Training Site. The Nebraska CERFP continues to show it is one of the premiere CERFPs in the National Guard by receiving 21 of 23 "TRAINED" certifications in evaluated areas.

♦The 734th Transportation Battalion planned and implemented the movement of ammunition from Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point to six ammunition depots across the continental United States. The battalion was the mission command headquarters of "Task Force Steel Delivery," comprised of nine companies of 800 Soldiers from Nebraska,



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Eben Boothby

Final Inspections: 734th Transportation Battalion Soldiers conduct a final inspection of their trucks at Military Operation Terminal Sunny Point, N.C., before the start of a 45-vehicle convoy trip to McAlester Army Ammunition Plant in Oklahoma.

Pennsylvania and South Carolina. The transportation companies traveled over 750,000 miles (1.5 million OPTEMPO miles) while delivering 641 containers and 250 container platforms.

♦72nd Civil Support Team performed five stand-by missions and responded to two real world call-outs. The team participated in a Vigilant Guard exercise, a Joint Operational Exercise, U.S. Army North collective lanes training, and 15 unit training exercises. The CST met Defense Department certification requirements with the successful completion of an ARNORTH Training Proficiency Evaluation and National Guard Bureau Standardization in Evaluation and Training Inspection.

92ND TROOP COMMAND

Freshly Prepared Rice: Pvt. Md Hossain scoops rice out of the pan while preparing the lunch menu during the national level of the 47th Annual Philip A. Connelly Competition, March 20, at the Greenlief Training Site near Hastings, Neb. Hossain's unit ultimately won the national cooking championship.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Heidi McClintock

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONTINUED)

- ♦The Nebraska Army National Guard Medical Detachment completed 2,975 Periodic Health Assessments and 201 physicals during the 2016 training year. The Nebraska Army National Guard achieved a 90 percent medical readiness and 95 percent dental readiness, placing the organization seventh nationally overall.
- ♦The 111th Public Affairs Detachment attended and performed public affairs duties for the U.S. Southern Command's Tradewinds 2016 exercise on the island of Grenada, gaining invaluable experience working in a multiagency environment.
- ♦On Sept. 1, 92nd Troop Command assumed command and control of two new organizations, the 1-376th Aviation Battalion and the 1-134th Cavalry, as part of the major transformation of the Nebraska Army National Guard. The new units will bring 92nd Troop Command additional capabilities to support domestic and federal missions.

2017 PRIORITIES/GOALS

- ♦**Deliver Readiness.** The 92nd Troop Command will man, equip and train its force in order to provide a viable and effective asset to support the organization's federal and state missions when called upon.
- ♦**Retain Excellence.** The 92nd Troop Command will continue to be innovative in recruiting new Soldiers into its units by explaining the total benefits of being part of the Nebraska National Guard. The organization will also ensure that it does what is necessary, from aggressive training to staying engaged with each Soldier, to ensure that it is maintaining a strong and highly trained force moving forward.

Citizen-Soldier Spotlight: **Chief Warrant Officer 2 Eric Cole**

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Eric Cole has had a most unique military career. Cole began his career in November 1988 when he enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves. After completing Basic Combat Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, he attended his first of six military occupational specialty schools at Fort Gordon, Georgia, while serving at the 162nd Medical Battalion in Lincoln, Nebraska.



After his initial six-year contract, Cole enlisted in the active Army and was assigned to McGregor Range, New Mexico. While there, he volunteered for explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) school. Cole later went on to serve two White House tours, responded to more than 55 calls for explosive hazards and aided with a dozen VIP support missions for the Secret Service. After two years, he returned to Nebraska in 1998 to attend college and serve in the Nebraska National Guard.

From 1999 to 2004, Cole served in multiple Guard units until he was selected for an AGR tour with the newly activated 72nd Civil Support Team (CST) as a survey team member. In 2007, Cole was selected to attend warrant officer candidate school (WOCS) in Salina, Kansas, as Nebraska's program was still under development. He received his warrant officer rank in August 2007 and then served at the Greenlief Training Site and then Camp Ashland as a WOCS instructor. He retired from the National Guard in February 2011.

Cole returned to service in 2013 and was selected to attend the CBRN WOBC to fill a vacant billet with the 126th Chemical Battalion in Omaha. He continues to serve as the sole CBRN warrant officer in Nebraska and on Nebraska's CBRN Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) element's intelligence section. Cole remains the only EOD-trained CBRN warrant officer in the Army's ranks.

Cole is also active in his local community, committed to self-development and involved in numerous activities. Cole currently is a future operations planner at U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base. He has served as an Air Force civilian for nearly eight years with the preponderance serving in a weapons of mass destruction requirements and advocacy billet. There, he has had the opportunity to lead a working group of more than 100 personnel from 40 organizations to develop an inaugural concept of operations for chemical and biological forensics and technical analysis in support of U.S. government attribution.

67TH MANEUVER ENHANCEMENT BRIGADE



Commander
Col. Craig W. Strong

Senior Enlisted Leader
Command Sgt. Maj.
Shawn M. Griffith

Headquarters Location
Lincoln, Nebraska

Subordinate Units*
Headquarters and Headquarters Company,
67th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade
402d Military Police (MP) Battalion (Internment
and Resettlement)
126th Chemical Battalion
128th Engineer Battalion
734th Brigade Support Battalion
1st Infantry Division Main Command Post -
Operational Detachment (MCPOD)
234th Brigade Signal Company (NSC)

* Note: The Subordinate Units listed represent the units assigned to the 67th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade at the end of Calendar Year 2016. The units listed in the accomplishment page represent units that were assigned to the brigade prior to the transformation and re-missioning of the 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade into its current mission as the 67th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

Communities with 67th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade Armories or Readiness Centers

Lincoln
Kearney
O'Neill
Scottsbluff
Columbus
Hastings
Wahoo
York
Norfolk
Omaha
Chadron
Grand Island
Nebraska City

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS*

♦Sgt. Calvin Koziol, a member of Beatrice's Company C (Long Range Surveillance), 1-134th Cavalry, from Albion, Neb., competed in three grueling Best Warrior competitions at the state, regional and national level. He completed complex and challenging Soldiering tasks that tested his physical abilities and mental acumen in stressful situations. Sgt. Koziol won all three levels of competition defeating challengers from every state.

♦The Department of the Army selected Omaha's 402nd Military Police Battalion as the winner in the Supply Excellence Award competition at the National Guard battalion-level. The battalion demonstrated excellent management in supply, property and other logistical disciplines. Members of the battalion were recognized by the Army Chief of Staff on Sept. 20 for this outstanding achievement.

♦Elements of the Mead Training Site-based Detachment 2, 165th Quartermaster Company, were recognized as the best Airborne team at the 2016 International Leapfest competition in Rhode Island. The team was challenged through a series of eight airborne operations where they were required to demonstrate parachuting skills. The four Nebraska Soldiers easily beat a field of 59 parachute teams from 30 different countries, including competitors from both the active and reserve component forces. Additionally, a team from Beatrice's Company C (Long Range Surveillance), 1-134th Cavalry, finished fifth in the competition.

♦The brigade successfully deployed three elements in support of contingency operations throughout the globe. The Nebraska City-based 192nd Military Police Detachment (Law and Order) returned from its deployment to Qatar in December 2015 after nearly nine months overseas. Additionally, the brigade



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Nystrom

Chuted Up: Soldiers from Omaha's 195th Forward Support Company (Special Operation) (Airborne) prepare to conduct an airborne operation in September at the Mead Training Site.

deployed three aviation elements from Grand Island in support of operations in and around Kuwait and Afghanistan. Finally, the newly established Division Main Command Post – Operational Detachment mobilized in August 2016 as an element of the 1st Infantry Division enroute to support Operation Inherent Resolve. The MCPOD is an unprecedented concept to meld the skills and assets of both the active and reserve components to create a right-sized Army capable of fighting and winning wars.

♦Of special note, the 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade underwent a significant transformation into a Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. The new force structure better aligns with both Army and Nebraska needs by placing key skills at the state-level to aid in state emergencies and to augment Army divisions in a conventional fight. The brigade saw itself transition from a reconnaissance and intelligence focus to maneuver support. Maneuver support includes engineering support, military police operations, and chemical protection and defense.

67TH MANEUVER ENHANCEMENT BRIGADE



Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

On The Move: Members of Company C (Long Range Surveillance), 1-134th Cavalry, move off to conduct their water insertion exercise shortly after jumping into Milford Lake near Fort Riley, Kan., on June 11.



Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

On The Run: Members of the Nebraska Army National Guard's 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade run in formation during a satellite "Run to St. Lo" five-kilometer run at Fort Riley, Kan., on June 11.

2017 PRIORITIES/GOALS

- ◆Field a skilled and proficient maneuver enhancement force while honing skills to support large combat formations and to meet the needs of the state during emergencies.
- ◆Develop individual and team skills in the brigade's three primary occupational specialties (engineer, military police, chemical) through institutional training and rigorous unit level collective training.
- ◆Utilize every asset and opportunity to collectively train with each subordinate functional battalion to learn and grow in the new organization.
- ◆Leverage skills and talents of the organization's diverse and storied history to benefit the state and represent the Nebraska National Guard with the active Army.

Citizen-Soldier Spotlight: *Sgt. Calvin Koziol*

Sgt. Calvin Koziol had quite a year in 2016. A scout sniper with the Nebraska Army National Guard's Company C (Long Range Surveillance), 1-134th Cavalry, Koziol made history when he was named the 2016 Army National Guard Soldier of the Year after winning the



Nebraska Best Warrior Competition in April, the regional competition in May and finally the National Guard's overall competition in June. Koziol is the first Soldier from Nebraska to compete for – and win – the national Best Warrior title.

Koziol is a 2013 graduate of Boone Central High School in Albion, Nebraska.

He enlisted in the Nebraska Army National Guard on Oct. 31, 2012, and then attended One Station Unit Training (OSUT) to become an infantryman at Fort Benning, Georgia, in 2013. Immediately following his graduation, Koziol attended the U.S. Army Airborne School. He then returned to Nebraska to serve with Co. C in Beatrice.

Koziol competed as Nebraska's first-ever participant in the National Guard's national Best Warrior Competition, June 20-23 at Camp Edwards, Massachusetts. Following the competition, Koziol struggled to put his achievement into words. "It didn't really sink in. It was such an amazing feeling. We've got some good guys (in my unit). I'm probably not even the best Soldier in the unit. I'm pretty confident that a lot of other Soldiers could've done the same thing."

To commemorate his achievement, Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts, at a ceremony at the State Capitol in Lincoln in July, signed a proclamation designating July 5, 2016, as "Sergeant Calvin Koziol Day."

After winning the national Best Warrior title, Koziol was selected for Air Assault School and completed this training in August 2016. Immediately following his Air Assault graduation, Koziol traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana, to attend a conference for the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS). There he was able to obtain valuable information from professional development sessions.

Koziol is currently in his junior year at the University of Nebraska at Kearney where he is working toward his bachelor's degree in Exercise Science. He is a member of the Exercise Science Club and is engaged in numerous intramurals throughout the school year. Upon completion of college, he plans to become a physical therapist, or find a career related to his field of study. Koziol volunteers at the Kearney Humane Society.

209TH REGIMENT (REGIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE)

**Commander**

Col Curtis L. Abendroth

Senior Enlisted Leader

Command Sgt. Maj. Monte A. Kerchal

Subordinate Units

*1/209th Battalion
(Noncommissioned Officer (NCO)
Academy)*

2/209th Battalion

*(Officer Candidate School (OCS)
Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS))*

3/209th Battalion

*(88M Military Occupational Speciality
Qualification (MOSQ))*

Headquarters Location

Camp Ashland, Nebraska

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

♦The 209th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) experienced numerous successes in 2016. Building off of the many achievements in 2015, 2016 focused on re-orienting personnel, resources and training focus.

♦The student mission load increased significantly within the 1st and 3rd Battalions (Basic Leader Course and 88M-T (Truck Driver Course) with 1st Bn. training nearly 2,000 Soldiers from all three components of the U.S. Army (Active, Guard, Reserve).

♦The 3rd Battalion trained seven classes, up from three in 2015, culminating in a pop-up class during the last month of the year. This pop-up class was twice the size of the RTI's regular classes and required two weeks of preparation prior to execution. The class was the result of the Nevada Army National Guard's nationwide plea for assistance with only Nebraska answering the call. 88M instructors averaged three weeks of training instruction each month of 2016, not including course preparation, teaching other courses, assisting 1st Bn. instructors with the BLC mission, and maintaining required qualifications.

♦The RTI additionally provided the active Army with highly qualified cadre who instructed the Basic Leaders Course for deployed active duty Soldiers in the U.S. Central Command (Kuwait) area of responsibility in coordination with their units of assignment.

♦The regiment acquired an Army Learning Management Mobile Training Team (MTT). This MTT exposed instructors and support personnel to the latest in teaching methodology as well as how to leverage emerging technologies to deliver Army training. This training, known as Army Learning Management, has become one of the delivery models for military education within the TRADOC system.

♦The 209th assumed Mission Command of the Training Center Command in May as part of the organization-wide transformation and realignment. The RTI was the first MSC to



Photos by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

First Salute: Newly-commissioned, 2nd Lt. Raquel Chavez returns her father's salute during the Sept. 25 Nebraska National Guard Officer Candidate School graduation ceremony. Retired 1st Sgt. George Chavez had the honor of giving his daughter her first salute as a commissioned officer.

complete all transformation tasks.

♦The 209th RTI sent two senior noncommissioned officers to the Master Leaders Course. This course will be a mandatory requirement for all Army masters/first sergeants wishing to be eligible for promotion to sergeant major beginning in 2019. As part of the NCO Education System, this course will precede the Army's Sergeants Major Academy.

♦The 209th RTI participated in the State's Partnership Program by sending instructors to the Czech Republic, creating and tailoring a Basic NCO Leadership Course for the Czech Army. In 2017 the instructors will attend the graduation of the first Czech NCOs from this pilot program.

♦The 209th RTI was recognized by the Nebraska Community Blood Bank at a formal event for the efforts and accomplishments it has made in regards to blood and blood product donations.

209TH REGIMENT (REGIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE)

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONTINUED)

The 209th was specifically recognized for donating gallons of product.

- ♦The 3rd Bn., 209th RTI, was selected to retain its 88M MOS-T course as part of a TRADOC reorganization and transition to the One Army School System (OASS). OASS Motor Transport MOS Transition Training (88M MOS-T) reallocation is scheduled to have eight sites nationwide remaining from the more than 20 current sites that teach this critical skill following full OASS implementation. The decision saved the Nebraska Army National Guard 18 Active Guard/Reserve full-time positions (one-third of the fulltime unit support of the regiment, five percent of the Nebraska Army National Guard), a lieutenant colonel command, and the capability to teach Motor Transport Operator MOS awarding training within the state.

- ♦1st Bn.'s Staff Sgt. Josh Kushen won the Nebraska Army National Guard's Best Warrior state competition. He participated and placed third in the Regional Best Warrior Competition.

2017 PRIORITIES/GOALS

- ♦The primary goal coming off of the numerous successes experienced this past year is for the 209th RTI to continue to build upon those initiatives while posturing the organization for future success within a budget-constrained, transition-necessitated and ambiguous environment.

- ♦The regiment will undergo an arduous accreditation evaluation process that will span the fall of 2017 through the spring of 2018. Many of the lessons learned from the past accreditations and the results of the FY 16 OIP will serve as the springboard to success for this critical event.

- ♦The regiment will seek clarity as to the probability of obtaining the Senior Leader level Noncommissioned Officer Education System school within the 88M and other MOS career fields, while also seeking to compete for the Master Leaders Course. The organization's continued commitment to the Enlisted Personal Development System has postured it to become a serious contender for opportunities as they become available. Staffing, equipping, policy development and training individuals for this mission set will become a top priority, should an opportunity become available.

- ♦The 209th RTI will seek additional ways in 2017 to partner with and become a stronger asset available to the other major subordinate commands as well as career branch managers within senior leadership. The organization has sought and received preliminary approval to obtain numerous mobile training team sets to be taught in the state. A few of these include the

Citizen-Soldier Spotlight: Staff Sgt. Larry Jackson

Each year the U.S. Army's chief of Transportation recognizes excellence for the Transportation Corps Regiment with the "Of the Year Awards." This year a Nebraska Army National Guard Soldier was chosen as the Transportation Corps' Reserve Component Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.



Staff Sgt. Larry Jackson, 3rd Battalion, 209th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), was recognized July 27 at Fort Lee, Virginia, for his achievements as a motor transport operator.

"It was really unexpected," Jackson said. "I'm due to retire pretty soon and it's definitely a nice end-of-career presentation to be recognized nationally by the chief of Transportation."

Jackson joined the armed forces in 1980 through delayed-entry into the Marine Corps where he served as a combat engineer until 1993. After the attacks on Sept. 11, 2011, Jackson began looking at re-enlistment opportunities and finally joined the Nebraska Army National Guard in 2004. He has completed two deployments and currently works full-time as an instructor at Camp Ashland Training Site.

"I love being an instructor. I love to teach," Jackson said. "I like to see what the Soldiers understand when you show them and their light comes on when they get it. It's very rewarding as an instructor to know that you taught your Soldiers something that they now understand and they can take back to their units."

Jackson said he's always tried to be a mentor for others, adding that he hopes upcoming transportation Soldiers will strive to do the same.

"You need to work hard and know your job," Jackson advises all Soldiers. "Become the subject matter experts on everything. If you want to know something, get in the (manuals) and look. I've been through all of them. Become the person everyone else asks instead of asking for answers yourself."

Army's Battle Staff School as well as the Foundations Instructors Facilitator Course (Train the Trainer), which will bring students to Nebraska to obtain mandatory training for their instructors while having an in-state capability the Nebraska Army National Guard can use to assist in meeting organizational needs.

155TH AIR REFUELING WING



Commander

Col. James "Bob" Stevenson, Jr.

Senior Enlisted Leader

Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey A. Horne

Headquarters Location

Lincoln, Nebraska

Subordinate Units

155th Mission Support Group

155th Maintenance Group

155th Operations Group

155th Medical Group

Keep A Low Profile: 155th Security Forces Squadron Airmen and Lincoln Police Department SWAT officers hone their dynamic entry skills, a tactic of entering a building or room with surprise, speed and dominating force, during an Aug. 4 training exercise at the Nebraska National Guard air base.



Photo by Spc. Lisa Crawford

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

♦The 155th Air Refueling Wing's Inspector General Office has been staffed to a full-time position. Within the year the organization identified and trained an additional cadre of 54 Wing Inspection Team members at the unit level. During Fiscal Year 2016, the 155th ARW accomplished nine inspections, six exercises, one Air Mobility Command CII inspection, and one external staff assistance visit out of this office. The wing is now deploying its WIT members to conduct inspections at cross-organizations, exemplifying the steady growth toward a mature wing-level Commander's Critical Inspection Program.

♦The 155th ARW has set flying hour records for four of the last five years and has again exceeded the previous flying year record. The wing's programmed flying hours for FY2016 were projected at 6,043; by early September it had flown over 6,665 hours. In the midst of a significant surge of requirements by combatant commanders, the 155th ARW still ensured that 100 percent of taskings were levied. Mission taskings have also increased annually for members of the 155th Maintenance and Operations Groups in support of U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Central Command, with homestation requirements often overlapping.

♦The Guardians of Freedom Airshow and Open House, planned by the 155th ARW and executed jointly with the Nebraska Army National Guard and various other organizations, provided an avenue through which the 155th ARW was able to execute almost every function required to deploy and sustain operations.



Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

Showing Off The Block 45: Col. Donald Neff, 155th Operations Group commander, explains how the Block 45 upgrade to his unit's tankers have increased the KC-135R's capabilities to Gen. Frank Grass, National Guard Bureau chief, during Grass' April 3 visit to the Nebraska National Guard air base.

Additionally, this event brought together over 235 participants from 51 different organizations, allowing the organization to further develop proficiency in understanding and operating within the National Incident Management System.

♦The 155th Medical Group — which is part of the Nebraska National Guard's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) — completed its exercise and evaluation with zero write-ups or suggested improvement areas, highlighting the unit's readiness to support domestic emergency response operations.

♦Upon recertification, the 155th Air Refueling Wing's Explosive Ordnance Disposal team responded to calls across Nebraska and out of the state. Additionally, the Nebraska Air National Guard's base fire department executed 28 Fire Support Agreement civil support mission responses in support of local community first responders.

155TH AIR REFUELING WING

Color Guards: Members of the Nebraska Air National Guard carry a massive American flag during the July 15 opening ceremony for the Cornhusker State Games.



Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONTINUED)

- ♦The 155th ARW focused on Airmen Quality of Life issues while guarding three key resources: time, funding and level of effort. The wing regularly maintains 100 percent manning, averaging 100.2 percent over FY2016. This puts the 155th ARW in the top 30 percent of wings nationwide.
- ♦The 155th ARW continued to excel while working through Defense Department budget uncertainties. Diligent senior leadership oversight on the Government Travel Card program resulted in the unit receiving \$83,400 in rebates from the National Guard Bureau for exceeding the Air Force non-delinquency goal.
- ♦The base Civil Engineer Squadron ensured facilities are operational and continued to manage upgrade and improvements to ensure the Nebraska National Guard air base meets mission needs; current initiatives total over \$28 million in funded projects. These projects include: \$440,000 perimeter fence repair; \$560,000 base-wide lighting upgrade; \$170,000 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Proficiency Range; \$1.5 million base-wide HVAC repair; \$20 million Main Hanger remodel; and \$5.25 million Operations Building remodel.

2017 PRIORITIES/GOALS

- ♦Support U.S. Central Command and U.S. Pacific Command deployments.
- ♦Maintain 100 percent manning; seek to increase effective manning by lowering percentage of members awaiting technical school or initial upgrade training.
- ♦Sustain readiness in National Guard Support to Civil Authorities missions.
- ♦Sustain nuclear enterprise readiness leading into the Fiscal Year 2018 inspection.
- ♦Improve resilience through the hiring of a director of Psychological Health, Green Dot implementation and the enhancement of current Family Readiness Programs.
- ♦Improve programmatic statistics: Enlisted Performance Report/Officer Performance Report Wing Completion Rate of 90 percent; Drug Demand Reduction completion rate of 100 percent; Fitness Test pass rate improved by 80 percent over previous year.

Citizen-Airman Spotlight: *Master Sgt. Jeramy Viet*

Iowa native, Master Sgt. Jeramy Viet works as a water and fuels system maintenance specialist supervisor with the Nebraska Air National Guard 155th Civil Engineering Squadron. He is responsible for the maintenance and installation oversight of all fuels and water maintenance on the Nebraska National Guard air base in Lincoln, Nebraska.



Viet began his military career in November 1997 when he enlisted into the Iowa Air National Guard. After graduating from Clear Lake High School in Clear Lake, Iowa, he completed basic military training in 1998 before going on to earn a bachelor's degree in Health and Sports Medicine with a minor in Psychology and Aging Studies in 2004 from the University of Iowa. Viet transferred to the Nebraska Air National Guard in 2007 following a Department of Defense force reduction, though he still works and lives in Iowa as a project manager for the Sterile Products division of the University of Iowa's Pharmaceuticals.

In 2011, Viet deployed to Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. There, Viet served as a force protection team chief with the 380th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron while also completing the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy and Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education courses. He deployed to Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait, again in 2014 where he served with the 386th Air Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron as the water and fuels systems maintenance superintendent. Viet designed and installed an \$8,000 filtration system that eliminated a seven-year deficiency, mitigated sand damage to a 1.2 million gallon system, and saved the Air Force \$75,000. Additionally, when sand and rocks blocked seven storm drains in the area, Viet and his team of 12 men cleared five tons worth of sand and rock, which mitigated potential hazardous flood damage to the airfield and base.

In addition to Viet's regular duties as a water and fuels system maintenance specialist supervisor, he is an additional duty first sergeant for his organization and the secretary for the Nebraska Air National Guard's First Sergeant Council.

Outside of the military, Viet is an active member of multiple organizations including American Legion Post 460, the Nebraska National Guard Enlisted Association and the Iowa Patriot Guard Riders. Viet is a community volunteer and event planner, helping raise thousands of dollars for community projects, scholarships and charitable organizations.

170TH GROUP



Commander
Col. Mark A. Hopson

Senior Enlisted Leader
Chief Master Sgt. Tyrone F. Bingham

Subordinate Units
170th Operations Support Squadron
238th Combat Training Squadron

Headquarters Location
Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

◆Members of the 170th Operations Support Squadron completed over 2,700 Military Personnel Appropriation (MPA) and annual training days in 2016, while members of the 238th Combat Training Squadron executed 790 MPA days (2+ man-years) of homestation support to the active Air Force's 55th Wing's combat training squadron and two active duty reconnaissance squadrons. The 238th CTS's work included Staff Sgt. Tyler Johnson's 60-day deployment to the U.S. Pacific Command's area of responsibility.

◆Members of the 170th Operations Support Squadron filled a critical 1N4 Intelligence Analyst shortfall for the active Air Force's 55th Wing by supporting a new 24/7 Cryptological Support mission at Offutt Air Force Base. Tech. Sgt. Matt Conboy and Staff Sgt. Matt Vondrasek served as shift supervisors in the 55th Intelligence Support Squadron's Cryptological Support Unit and produced over 4,600 tactical reports supporting over 460 worldwide Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance missions in every combatant command.

◆Members of the 238th Combat Training Squadron became the sole creators and implementers of the Electronic Flight Bag program within active Air Force's 55th Operations Group. Nebraska Airmen secured funding for dozens of iPad tablets and developed employment guidelines, which has saved countless thousands of dollars in recurring paper production while securing modern access to updated flight manuals and publications.



Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

Offutt Duty: Staff Sgt. Tyler Johnson, a Nebraska Air National Guard instructor airborne system engineer with the 238th Combat Training Squadron, works alongside his active Air Force counterparts at the 343rd Reconnaissance Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base.



Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

Nebraska Flyers: (From left) Maj. Harley Barmore, Tech. Sgt. Eric Streeter, Maj. Beth Foster and Staff Sgt. Tyler Johnson of the Nebraska Air National Guard's 238th Combat Training Squadron pose for a photo at Offutt Air Force Base.

◆Master Sgt. Tony Whitfield from the 170th Operations Support Squadron served as the active Air Force's 55th Wing and 55th Intelligence Support Squadron external intelligence training manager, managing intelligence training for 1,000 55th Wing and 170th Group aviators. This training encompasses five worldwide Air Force areas of responsibility, six different aircraft missions and three overseas locations.

◆Maj. Kevin Johnson of the 170th Operations Support Squadron deployed as the senior intelligence officer to Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, for RED FLAG 16-1. The exercise included three countries, 119 aircraft and 3,000 Airmen. While in Nevada, Johnson oversaw a team of active duty intelligence analysts who produced 27 briefings and 24 mission products, to include mission reports, post-mission summaries and graphical mission summaries.

◆Capt. Bryan Allebone of the 236th Combat Training Squadron became the first Nebraska Air National Guard member and first-ever navigator selected to attend the Royal Air Force Qualified Weapons Instructor Course, which is the British

170TH GROUP

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONTINUED)

equivalent of the U.S. Air Force's Weapons School. Additionally, the squadron's Maj. Anthony Purdy became the fourth Nebraska Air National Guard Airman selected to attend the U.S. Air Force Weapons School for the RIVET JOINT aircraft.

- ♦Lt. Col. Matt Burns, 170th Operations Support Squadron, became the first Nebraska Air National Guardsman to be selected as director of the 55th Wing Operations Center, which oversees all 55th Wing aircraft operations worldwide.

- ♦Members of the 238th Combat Training Squadron provided over 33 percent of the instructor pilot force for the largest Formal Training Unit in Air Combat Command, which directly contributed to the graduation of 628 students in Fiscal Year 2016.

- ♦The 170th Operations Support Squadron's Aviation Resource Management team of three personnel worked alongside the 55th Operations Support Squadron and managed over 1,900 records and over \$7.2 million of entitlement pay for all aviators at Offutt Air Force base and U.S. Strategic Command.

- ♦Members of the 238th Combat Training Squadron designed, authored and are now executing the \$2.7 million Pilot and Navigator Continuation Training program.

2017 PRIORITIES/GOALS

- ♦The 170th Operations Support Squadron will work to increase support for the 55th Intelligence Squadron's new mission sets. 170th OSS intelligence analysts will provide invaluable support to a new and demanding 24/7 mission. The squadron will provide increased manpower for 55th Operations Support Squadron's Weather and Airfield Management offices.

- ♦The 170th Operations Squadron will focus on sending deserving Airmen to Airman Leadership School in residence at Offutt Air Force Base. It will also focus on recruiting and hiring operations to reach its 100 percent manning goals.

- ♦The 238th Combat Training Squadron will resolve future deployment challenges given the current state of Military Personnel Appropriation (MPA) days from Air Combat Command while working to secure steady state MPA days for those Nebraska Air Guard members who want to contribute to Combat Training Squadron and 55th Operations Group squadrons as high-level experienced operators and instructors.

- ♦The 238th Combat Training Squadron will continue recruiting, training and employing officer and enlisted Airmen with the goal of pushing past the squadron's 100 percent manning goals. Additionally the 238th CTS will focus on offering unit officers and enlisted Airmen with coherent career

Citizen-Airman Spotlight:

Tech. Sgt. Chris Rasmussen

This past year proved to be pretty interesting for a Nebraska Air National Guard noncommissioned officer assigned to the Guard's 170th Group at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

Tech. Sgt. Chris Rasmussen, a native of Grand Rapids, Michigan, spent his summer working as an intern for the presidential campaign of a major party candidate, learning the ins and the outs of national politics. "It was pretty interesting," said Rasmussen, an eight-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard who is currently majoring in Political Science with a minor in International Relations at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan.



During the course of the year, Rasmussen also broadened his knowledge by volunteering to do voter outreach in Michigan. "Voting is super important and I really believed in the candidate I was working for," he said, adding that he also got involved in helping local Michigan residents find out where their individual polling locations were. "Also, I'm a (Political Science) major and I hope to go to law school someday, so they complimented each other really well."

As a member of the 170th Group, which is a Nebraska Air National Guard organization embedded within the active Air Force's 55th Wing at Offutt, Rasmussen serves as an airborne system engineer instructor evaluator within the Guard's 238th Combat Training Squadron. Rasmussen, who joined the unit in 2015 after completing his tour in the active Air Force, said the Air National Guard has allowed him to continue pursuing both of his interests.

"I like that I get to fly and I like working on computers. I get to do that whenever I fly," said Rasmussen, who is responsible for helping train new Airmen – most of whom are members of the active Air Force – on the intricacies of working on the RC-135 aircraft. "(The Guard) lets me concentrate on school while at the same time allowing me to continue to do a job in the Air Force that I really enjoy."

path roadmaps to leadership positions within the squadron and the larger 170th Group.

- ♦The 238th Combat Training Squadron will continue to emphasize innovation across the 55th Operations Group, leveraging success in the Electronic Flight Bag and Continuation Training programs. It will also use the Patriot Excalibur scheduling tool to its full capability and while developing the Continuation Training program for mission crew positions.

NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



Director
Maj. Gen. Daryl L. Bohac

Assistant Director
Bryan Tuma

Location
Lincoln, Nebraska

Mission
The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency is charged by state statute

to reduce the vulnerabilities of the people and communities of Nebraska from damage, injury and loss of life and property resulting from natural, technological or man-made disasters and emergencies. The agency works with local emergency managers, other state agencies, federal partners, disaster relief agencies and nongovernment organizations to respond to disasters and emergencies in Nebraska.

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency's mission is to coordinate, support and serve Nebraska through an effective and relevant emergency management agency. NEMA's guiding principles are:

- ♦ All emergencies begin at the local level. NEMA collaborates with local, state, tribal and federal officials to provide coordinated assistance to Nebraska communities that augment local capabilities when appropriate.
- ♦ NEMA activities are grounded in principles of emergency management. Emergency management must be comprehensive, progressive, risk-driven, cost-effective and flexible.
- ♦ Respectful, collaborative relationships and professional leadership are integral to quality emergency management. Emergency management activities must be inclusive and involve the whole community.

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

♦ When the State of Nebraska re-branded this year, it was an opportunity for Nebraska departments and agencies to highlight what is great about the work they do for citizens of the state. The Nebraska Military Department, of which Nebraska Emergency Management Agency is a part, chose the word "strength" to capture what is great about the Nebraska Military Department and the role it plays in response to disasters and obstacles. It takes great strength to respond quickly and effectively in times of adversity. That resilience on the part of NEMA staff and National Guard personnel, our emergency support agencies, local emergency managers, our federal partners and the citizens of Nebraska means we will be better prepared whenever floods, wildfires, tornadoes or other disasters strike.

♦ NEMA reorganized from five sections to four when the Technical Hazards Section became a unit within the Preparedness Section. Five staff members who worked in offices in southwest Lincoln moved to the main NEMA office at the Joint Forces Headquarters; the south NEMA location is now closed.

♦ NEMA established a watch center to focus on the all-hazards threat environment. The watch center will improve the agency's



Photo by Jodi Fawl

Morning Session: Bryan Tuma, the assistant director of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, addresses a group of civilian and Nebraska National Guard firefighters and emergency support personnel during the annual TERREX at Fort Robinson State Park.

common operating picture and allow NEMA staff members to better coordinate response, provide better information on emerging threats, centralize logging and records, and supplement the state emergency operation center capabilities and activities.

♦ Another effort was NEMA's continued work toward the establishment of a Type III All-Hazards Incident Management Team. This collaborative effort to identify and train qualified candidates to serve in general and command staff positions will benefit communities across the state following any type of disaster. A few NEMA staff, other state agency staff, local emergency managers and volunteers have already been certified in various Incident Command System positions, and many others are working on earning certification.

♦ NEMA's Information Technology and Communications unit continued to work closely with the Nebraska National Guard, the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) and the Office of the Chief Information Officer to ensure all IT and Commo systems are compatible, functional and deployable in the event of a

NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONTINUED)

disaster. Additionally, the unit participated in a National Guard cybersecurity training and exercise, the annual TERREX exercise, multiple small scale communication events and air-to-ground radio communication testing with the NSP.

- ♦The NEMA Training and Exercise Unit tracked and coordinated training for 7,032 individual offerings of independent study courses taken by Nebraskans, along with 29 offerings of training in traditional classroom style courses. NEMA also conducts an annual state-level exercise each year to test readiness of local, county and state agencies and their ability to work together in a large scale incident. In 2016, this exercise was a communications-focused full-scale exercise using a wildfire scenario conducted at Fort Robinson State Park.

- ♦The NEMA planning staff began a revision of the State Emergency Operations Plan, which will be completed in March. In addition, the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment and State Preparedness Report was completed and submitted to DHS.

- ♦An investment justification workshop for the State Homeland Security Grant allowed the state planning team, regional PET representatives and state agency staff to deliver project presentations after reviewing project rankings.

2017 PRIORITIES/GOALS

- ♦NEMA's annual investment justification and training, and exercise workshops focuses our efforts and ensures that we are developing our program in the most needed areas. This is an ongoing effort to strengthen our response for the benefit of all Nebraskans. It is an honor to do this work, in conjunction with outstanding partners across the state. Together, we will be ready.

- ♦The Nebraska Regional Interoperable Network (NRIN) will continue to be a major project for NEMA's Information Technology and Communications Unit and its success across the state of Nebraska has become a vital link for 911 centers.

- ♦During 2017, there will be at least one more federal disaster officially closed. NEMA's Public Assistance Staff will continue to review and provide assistance on the open public assistance projects, coordinate the payment process and complete inspections of completed projects.

- ♦NEMA's Hazard Mitigation staff will work on the next State Hazard Mitigation Plan revision, which is due in the spring of 2019. With many programmatic changes and the recent approval of nearly all of the state's local hazard mitigation plans by FEMA, NEMA will be analyzing the myriad of risk assessments and

State Employee Spotlight: *Roger A. Conrad*

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency's Roger Conrad has made a career... and then some... of giving back to his community, state and nation. A graduate of Mead High School who retired as a U.S.



Marine Corps master sergeant after a 25-year military career, Conrad has worked as a NEMA exercise training officer for the past five years. There, he helps prepare state, county and local emergency management officials prepare for possible emergencies by planning and then conducting exercises designed

to help test emergency response plans.

"I like being in a position where we're there to help people be prepared ahead of time," he said. "One of the things I've learned working here is that you don't want to start preparing for a disaster after a disaster strikes."

When he isn't working at the Joint Force Headquarters in Lincoln, Nebraska, Conrad spends much of his free time volunteering for a number of community or church-related projects. For example, he is active in the Royal Family Kids Camp and Royal Family Mentoring programs.

According to Conrad, the camp and mentoring programs are designed to provide kids who have been victims of abuse or neglect with positive experiences during the summer and opportunities to receive positive mentoring during the rest of the year. "It really a great program to be in a position where you can just interact with these kids and give them somebody to have fun with, to talk to," he added. "It kind of helps with their recovery."

Additionally, Conrad and his wife, Kim, are active volunteers with Wildlife Rescue, Inc., which helps rehabilitate injured or orphaned wild animals until they're ready to be released back into the wild. The Conrads have typically taken in baby raccoons and raised them until they're around two-months-old and ready to be returned into nature.

"I learned a long time ago when I was in the Marine Corps that leaders exist at all levels and one of the primary tenets of leadership is service and putting others before yourself," Conrad said. "And that didn't stop when I retired in 2009. I just had more time available since I wasn't in the military anymore. I realized that I had skills, abilities and desires to help other people."

local strategies to combat the greatest risks to its citizens and communities.

National Guard taking big steps to improve preparedness should disaster strike

In 2016, the Nebraska National Guard assisted state civil authorities by dispatching liaison officers to the State Emergency Operations Center during two severe weather events, monitoring 22 domestic operations where Nebraska National Guard forces were utilized state-wide, and responded to 14 requests for emergency assistance. Additionally, the Nebraska National Guard participated in 90 training exercises internally or with other Nebraska agencies.

In 2017, the focus for the Nebraska National Guard's domestic operations staff will be on establishing and strengthening relationships with other lead Nebraska agencies responsible for managing disaster situations in the state and organizing enduring task forces that leverage the capabilities of both the Army and Air National Guard to provide an all-hazards capable response to requests for assistance in support of federal, state, county and local authorities.

These task forces will include:

- **A National Guard Reaction Force** that can provide support to law enforcement in conducting site security, presence patrols, traffic control measures, protection of military and civilian responders, and civil disturbances.

- **A National Guard Severe Weather Task Force** that can provide support to civil authorities in response to winter storms, floods and tornados by conducting damage mitigation assistance, ground and aerial damage assessments, ground and aerial evacuation of civilians and animals, route clearance and snow removal, temporary shelter and logistics support, and urban search and rescue.

- **A National Guard Wildland Fire Fighting Task Force** that can provide support to civil authorities in response to wildland fires throughout Nebraska by providing "red card" certified ground firefighting hand-crews, equipment and aerial fire suppression.

- **A Joint Reception, Staging and Onward Integration Task Force** that can provide support to civil and other military forces in response to natural disasters by providing temporary bed down, life support, medical support, maintenance support and logistical support at fixed sites throughout the state.

- **A Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear High Yield Explosive (CBRNE) Task Force** that can provide support to civil authorities in response to CBRNE and hazardous materials incidents throughout Nebraska.

- **A Joint Task Force Headquarters** that can provide command and control of all Nebraska state military assets and/or

Citizen-Soldier Spotlight: Staff Sgt. Benjamin Schall

Staff Sgt. Benjamin J. Schall is about as close to a typical Nebraska Army National Guardsman as a person could find. A nearly 15-year veteran of the Nebraska Army National Guard from Litchfield, Nebraska, Schall has worked as a truck driver, administrative specialist, a recruiter in North



Platte and as a Recruit Sustainment Program supervisor in Lincoln.

Along the way, Schall has also been called to state active duty a few times.

He responded to the call when a tornado struck Kearney, Nebraska, in May 2008, and again when hurricanes struck the Gulf Coast in 2005 and in 2008. So, needless to

say, Schall has seen a few things and learned a few skills along the way.

Schall is putting this knowledge to use as the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the Nebraska National Guard's Joint Operations Center (JOC) in Lincoln. There, Schall, an Air National Guard NCO and a civilian contractor are charged with maintaining a vigilant eye on possible or emerging emergencies that might require the Nebraska National Guard's domestic operations capabilities.

The JOC is essentially the conduit between the Nebraska National Guard's capabilities and either the State Emergency Operations Center or National Guard Bureau during a domestic emergency, coordinating and tracking any requests for Nebraska Army and Air National Guard domestic response resources. Although staffed by just three full-time people, the JOC can quickly grow to a staff of 25 Nebraska National Guardsmen and conduct operations around the clock should the emergency require it.

According to Schall, he enjoys being part of an important mission that has affected him numerous times throughout his military career.

"It really culminates it into seeing the bigger picture of what the National Guard is here for," he said.

other supporting state forces deployed in support to civil authorities in response to natural disasters throughout the state.

- **A Dual Status Command Task Force** that can provide command and control of all Nebraska state military assets, other supporting state forces and any federal military forces deployed in support to civil authorities in response to natural disasters throughout Nebraska.

In 2017, the Nebraska National Guard is planning to conduct a domestic CBRNE full scale exercise in cooperation with other state agencies and the Missouri National Guard Homeland Emergency Response Force.

DOMESTIC OPERATIONS

National Guard's emergency response focuses on community-based approach

Under the provisions of state and federal law, members of the Nebraska National Guard and their equipment are available to be utilized by Nebraska's governor in response to state emergencies and in support of civil authorities when deemed necessary.

Broadly speaking, National Guard domestic support operations fall into three major categories:

- ♦ **Homeland Defense** – for which the Defense Department serves as the primary federal agency with military forces to conduct military operations in defense of the homeland.

- ♦ **National Guard Civil Support** – for which the National Guard normally serves in a supporting role to other primary state or federal agencies by providing assistance to U.S. civil authorities at the federal, state, tribal and local levels.

- ♦ **National Guard Baseline Operating Posture** – in which the National Guard conducts required planning, training and exercises as well as some ongoing mandated domestic operations such as National Guard Reaction Force (NGRF), Counter Drug (CD), Civil Support Team (CST) and the Chemical Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP).

In order to accomplish these three major mission sets, the Nebraska National Guard's domestic operations capabilities have been categorized into 10 core capabilities to ensure adequate responses to requests. These capabilities are: Aviation/Airlift; Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and high-yield Explosives (CBRNE) Response; Command and Control (C2);

Communications; Engineering; Logistics; Maintenance; Medical; Security; and Transportation.

As a part of the National Response Framework (NRF) and National Incident Management System (NIMS), the Nebraska National Guard has been assigned as the primary agency responsible for Emergency Support Function 15 (Military

Support) while the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency has been assigned as the primary agency responsible for Emergency Support Functions 5 (Emergency Management), 9 (Urban Search and Rescue) and 14 (Community Recovery and Mitigation).

Nebraska National Guard civil support missions may be performed in a State Active Duty or Title 32 (Federal) duty status under the control of the Nebraska governor. These missions are conducted to assist in:

- ♦ Supporting civil authorities whose capabilities or capacity is insufficient to meet current requirements with general purpose, specialized, or unique Guard forces or capabilities;
- ♦ Protecting the life, property and safety of U.S. Citizens and U.S. persons;
- ♦ Protecting critical infrastructure;
- ♦ Providing humanitarian assistance during disaster response and domestic emergencies;
- ♦ Providing support to designated law enforcement activities and operations;
- ♦ Providing support to designated events, programs and other activities.



Nebraska National Guard's 10 Core Capabilities

AVIATION/AIRLIFT

The Nebraska National Guard's Aviation/Airlift capabilities include eight Air National Guard KC-135R Stratotankers, the Army National Guard's C-12 aircraft and 22 helicopters spread across three aircraft type.



CH-47 Chinook Helicopter

CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, NUCLEAR, AND HIGH-YIELD EXPLOSIVES (CBRNE) RESPONSE



Chemical Operations & Survey Team

The National Guard's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and high-yield Explosives (CBRNE) Response include the Lightweight Inflatable Decontamination System, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team and the Chemical Operations and Survey Team.

DOMESTIC OPERATIONS

COMMAND AND CONTROL

The National Guard's Command and Control capabilities include the Mobile Operations Center and the Incident Command Post Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter Tent System.



**Command Element — CERFP
(CBRN Enhance Response
Force Package)**

COMMUNICATIONS

The National Guard's Communications capabilities include the Joint Incident Communications Capability, portable hand-held radios and the Joint Network Node/Command Post Network.



**Very Small Aperture
Terminal — Satellite &
Combat Service Supported
Automated Information System**

ENGINEERING

The National Guard's Engineering capabilities include the Debris Clearance Package, Helicopter "Bambi" Buckets and the Air Guard Civil Engineering Firefighter Emergency Response Team.



Debris Clearance Equipment Package

LOGISTICS

The National Guard's Logistics capabilities include the Single Pallet Expeditionary Kitchen, Water Purification, Generators, Water Storage and Emergency Shelter Support.



Single Pallet Expeditionary Kitchen

MAINTENANCE

The National Guard's Maintenance capabilities include Maintenance Contact Trucks and Wreckers.



Maintenance Contact Truck

MEDICAL

The National Guard's Medical capabilities include Ambulances, the Helibasket External Load Transport System and the Medical Element of the CBRN Enhanced Response Force Package.



Ambulance

SECURITY

The National Guard's Security capabilities include Non-Lethal Equipment Sets, Armored Knight support vehicles and the Contingency Ammunition Stock.



**Non-Lethal Capabilities Equipment
Sets**

TRANSPORTATION

The National Guard's Transportation capabilities include the Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles, Humvees, Semi-Tractors and Trailers, Buses and All-Terrain Vehicles.



All-Terrain Vehicle

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD TRANSFORMATION

Nebraska Army National Guard's transformation efforts mark major milestones

The largest transformation of Nebraska Army National Guard units in a generation picked up considerable steam in 2016 as the Guard's Lincoln-based 67th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade began the opening steps of reorganizing into the new 67th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

The transformation, which affects around 1,100 Nebraska Soldiers state-wide – or roughly one-in-three Nebraska Army National Guard Soldiers – was first announced by Gov. Pete Ricketts and Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac in November

2015. Since then, the organization has made dramatic shifts that are now bringing in new military occupational specialties, such as engineering and military police, into much of the state.

"Today is the beginning of an exciting new era for the Nebraska Army National Guard as it undergoes its largest force restructuring in roughly 20 years," Governor Ricketts said on Nov. 17, 2015. "These changes will dramatically increase military occupational specialty training opportunities in the western and central regions of our state."

"This realignment is an opportunity to provide our current Soldiers and those who are interested in joining our ranks with better opportunities for personal and professional growth from the time they enlist until the time they retire without having to travel extensively from their hometown communities," added General Bohac during the Nov. 15 news conference. "This is particularly evident in the central and western areas of the state where for the last 20 years Nebraskans who lived west of Kearney only had the opportunities to serve in our transportation companies."

The changes are affecting units in Lincoln, Omaha, Beatrice,



Photo by Staff Sgt. Koan Nissen

Physical Transformations: Sgt. Anthony Schuman paints "Maneuver Enhancement Brigade" (MEB) on a wall in the Spirit of '76 Armory in Lincoln, Sept. 19. The MEB replaced the "Battlefield Surveillance Brigade" (BfSB), the unit's prior designation.



Photo by Sgt. Jason Drager

New Colors, New Brigade: Col. Craig Strong and Command Sgt. Maj. Shawn Griffith unfurl the colors of the new 67th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Nov. 5, at the Spirit of '76 Armory in Lincoln.

Columbus, York, Hastings, Kearney, Grand Island, Mead, O'Neill, Broken Bow, North Platte, McCook, Sidney, Scottsbluff and Chadron.

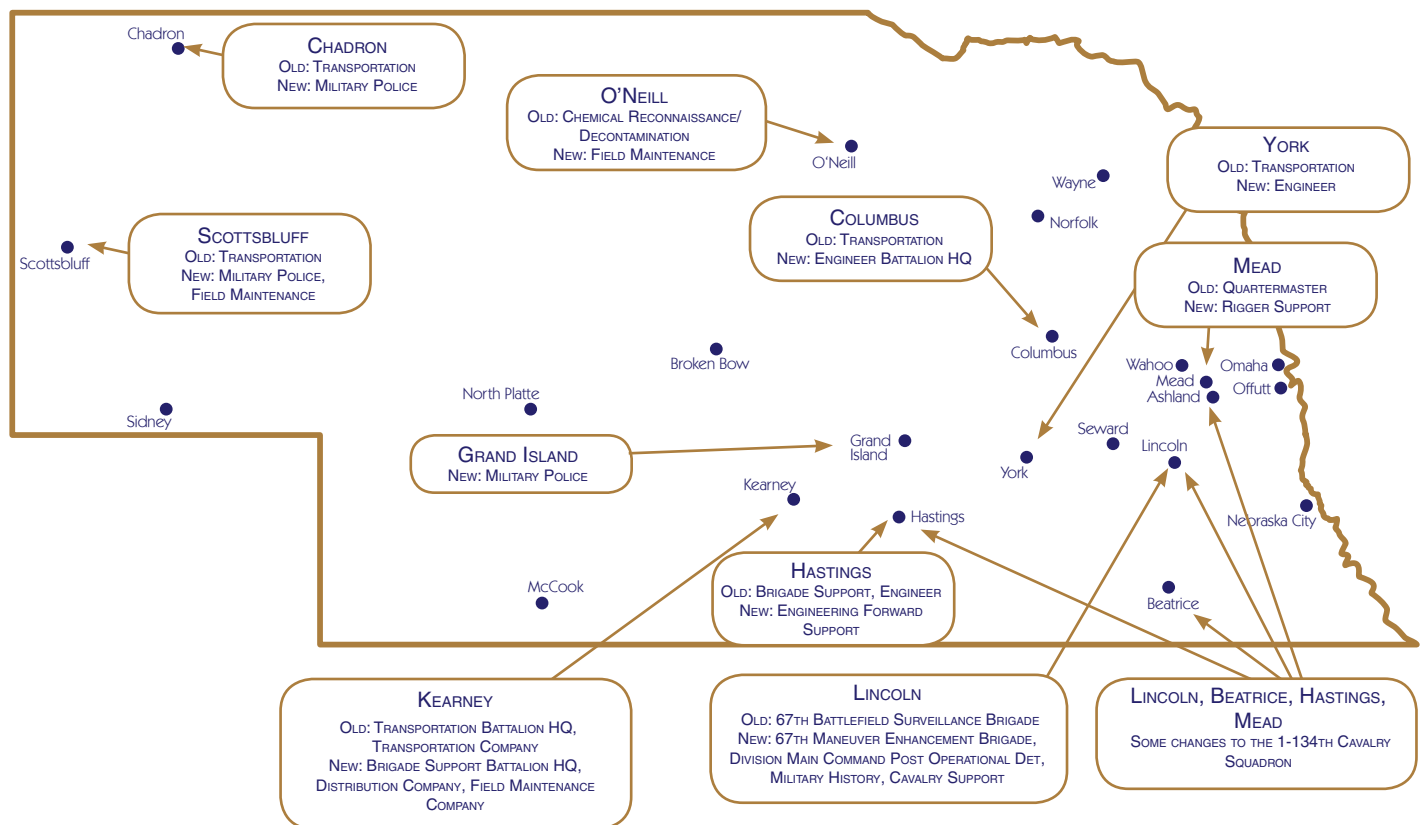
Although the transformation activities are expected to take roughly three years to complete, considerable changes were made during 2016. According to Nebraska Army National Guard force integration and readiness officials, these highlights included:

- ♦The activation of the new 67th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade during a ceremony on Nov. 5 in Lincoln, Neb., and the activation of the new 734th Brigade Support Battalion on Sept. 11 in Kearney, Neb. The 734th BSB had previously been organized as the 734th Transportation Battalion.

- ♦The standing up of the new Company A, 734th Brigade Support Battalion, on Sept. 11 in Kearney. This unit was previously organized as the 1195th Transportation Company.

- ♦The activation of a new Company E, 1-134th Cavalry, in Beatrice on July 23, and a new Company D (Forward Support), 39th Brigade Support Battalion, in Lincoln on Sept. 11. The two units are now part of a new Mead Training Site-based 1-134th Cavalry Squadron, which on Dec. 10 became a part of the Arkansas Army National Guard's 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. This marks the first time that a Nebraska Army National Guard unit has been a part of an infantry brigade since the inactivation of the 67th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized) in the early 2000s. The 1-134th Cavalry has units located at the Mead Training

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD TRANSFORMATION



Site, Beatrice and Hastings.

- ♦The equipping of new Tube-launched, Optically tracked, Wire-guided (TOW) missile and mortar weapons systems into the new 1-134th Cavalry.

- ♦The Nebraska Army National Guard began major changes for the new 1057th Military Police Company in Chadron, Grand Island and Scottsbluff, and the new 128th Engineer Battalion in Columbus and Hastings. Among the changes are the movement of the previous units' trucks and transportation out of state in return for new military police and engineering equipment that includes such vehicles as M-88A3, M577 and M-113 armored track vehicles into the new engineer battalion.

- ♦The new three-person 105th Military History Detachment stood up in October as a part of the Nebraska National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters.

- ♦Although retraining and recruiting efforts are just beginning, a number of accomplishments have already been achieved. For example, the new 1057th Military Police Company detachment in Grand Island is already at 80 percent of its authorized strength.

Probably the biggest success story for 2016 has been within a new Nebraska Army National Guard organization called the 1st Infantry Division Main Command Post – Operational Detachment or MCPOD. The MCPOD is part of an Army-wide program to shift portions of the active Army's division headquarters to the Army National Guard, which is then available when those divisions deploy overseas.



Photos by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

End Of A Mission: Lt. Col. Chris Weskamp holds his colors as the 734th Transportation Battalion's flag is furled during a Sept. 11 inactivation ceremony in Kearney. It was replaced by the new 734th Brigade Support Battalion.

In the case of Nebraska, the new unit was initially stood up in February as a part of the active Army's 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kan. By mid-summer, the 90-person unit had completed its initial manning and training, and was wished farewell on Aug. 5 in Lincoln as the unit mobilized for its first overseas deployment to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, where the unit is currently stationed.

OPERATIONAL TEMPO



Photo by Sgt. Charles Wilkins

Afghanistan MEDEVAC Simulation: Members of the Nebraska Army National Guard's Lincoln-based Company G, 2-104th General Support Aviation Battalion, conduct an aeromedical evacuation exercise in Afghanistan in September.

Nebraska National Guard Soldiers, Airmen continue supporting America's wide-ranging overseas commitments

As a part of the Defense Department's Total Force, members of the Nebraska Army and Air National Guard often deploy around the globe in support of the nation's worldwide commitments where they work shoulder-to-shoulder with their partners from the active military and U.S. Reserves. Since its enactment in the early 1970s, the Total Force has proven to be – time and time again – an extremely adaptive and fiscally responsible way of maintaining readiness and projecting operational capabilities while also capitalizing on the civilian-acquired skills that members of the National Guard and U.S. Reserves bring with them during deployments.

This was definitely the case for the Nebraska Army and Air National Guard in 2016 as members of both organizations continued to mobilize and deploy in support of the nation's overseas commitments. In the case of the Nebraska Army National Guard, a total of 299 Soldiers deployed overseas in 2016 while a total of 162 Nebraska Air National Guard Airmen also deployed.

The missions these Nebraskans served in were extremely diverse.

For the Nebraska Army National Guard, the missions included the deployment of a team of Soldiers from the Omaha-based 195th Forward Support Company (Special Operations) (Airborne) who worked in the U.S. Central Command Area of Operations in



Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

Will You...? 1st Lt. Nathan McGrudder, 195th Forward Support Company (Special Operations) (Airborne), proposes to his girlfriend, Ellise Nichols, shortly after arriving back in Omaha on May 11 following a deployment to the Middle East.

support of U.S. Special Operations forces there. It also included members of the 2-135th General Support Aviation Battalion from Grand Island and Lincoln, and the Nebraska City-based 192nd Law and Order Detachment that completed their missions to the Middle East in early 2016.

Most recently, the deployments include the first overseas mission for the newly-organized 1st Infantry Division Main Command Post – Operational Detachment, which is currently deployed to Iraq in support of the Fort Riley, Kansas, based 1st Infantry Division headquarters; members of Lincoln's Company G, 2-104th General Support Aviation Battalion, which is currently providing aeromedical evacuation support in Afghanistan; and members from the 1969th Contingency Contracting Team and the 195th FSC (SO) (A), currently serving in the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility.

For the Nebraska Air National Guard, 2016 saw members of the organization performing a wide array of mission ranging from aerial refueling support to a variety of support functions in support of operations in the U.S. Central Command, U.S. European Command and U.S. Pacific Command area of responsibility. In particular, the aerial refueling support conducted in each of the deployed theaters contributed directly to the Lincoln-based 155th Air Refueling Wing recording its second-straight year of record-breaking flying hours (*See Air Guard Flying Hours on 33*).

AIR GUARD FLYING HOURS



Takeoff: A Nebraska Air National Guard KC-135R Stratotanker takes off on a training flight from the Nebraska National Guard air base in Lincoln, Neb.



Photos by the 155th Air Refueling Wing

Into Position: A Nebraska Air National Guard ground crew member helps direct a KC-135R Stratotanker into position.

Nebraska Air Guard's 155th Air Refueling Wing sets record... again

For the second time in as many years, the Nebraska Air National Guard's Lincoln-based 155th Air Refueling Wing set a record for number of hours flown.

During fiscal year 2016, the 155th Air Refueling Wing's eight aircraft and assembled flight crews accumulated a total of 6,665 hours in the air. That number is up from the previous year's total of 5,211 hours and dwarfs 2014's total of 2,502.

The unit, located at the Nebraska National Guard air base in Lincoln, Nebraska, flies the KC-135R Stratotanker, which is primarily tasked with aerial refueling but can also be used for transporting passengers and cargo.

According to Col. Bob Stevenson, 155th ARW commander, the increase in flying hours can be directly attributed to many of the unit's aircraft being deployed to the U.S. Central Command and U.S. Pacific Command areas of responsibility. At any given point during the past year, up to three of the 155th ARW's planes were deployed.

"Our Citizen Airmen have answered their nation's call consistently and exceptionally," Stevenson said. "Nebraska has always been operationally in the top third of the Air National Guard mission, so we are not unique in this effort, but near the top."

"The Air National Guard brings incredible value to both the nation's warfighting missions and the American taxpayer," Stevenson said. "We have had a constant presence in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility while also increasing our presence in the U.S. Pacific Command area. Additionally, we continue to train in our nuclear readiness mission."

To put the numbers into perspective, it would take a three-person crew flying an aircraft 24/7 approximately seven months

straight to accomplish what the 155th ARW did in Fiscal Year 2016. The record number of flying hours is even more impressive considering a few of the 155th ARW's aircraft underwent a multiple-week software and hardware upgrade, meaning those planes weren't flying during the upgrade.

Although the gaudy flight numbers are impressive, the increased operations tempo does have a human cost.

Tech. Sgt. Bryan Schuka, a boom operator with the 173rd ARS, knows that human toll all too well. Schuka, a firefighter with the Omaha Fire Department, has spent the last decade as a boom operator, responsible for "flying" the KC-135R extendable refueling boom into other aircraft during air refueling missions. He said he's seen flight hours more than double and deployment schedules continue to increase. As a husband with two daughters and a son all under 12-years-old, he's been forced to miss multiple family events.

"It's almost like living two lives," Schuka said.

Balancing family, a civilian career and Air National Guard duties is definitely challenging, he said, adding that his family is mostly used to him being gone, although it's never easy. The Omaha Fire Department has also been very supportive of his increased time away from work, he said.

"It's kind of become the new normal," Schuka said. "You kind of get used to it, but then again, in some ways you don't get used to it."

Stevenson said that impact is very real. "Our mission has an effect upon our Airmen's lives and the lives of their families. Technical Sergeant Schuka talks of being gone. You can't get those birthdays, holidays, soccer tournaments, ballet recitals back. But this is important work that is being done. Our aircraft are vital in providing air support and (Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance) support to those who are fighting ISIS."

STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

After two decades, Czech partnership continues to pay major dividends

The Cold War was over. In its place.... uncertainty. For nearly 50 years, the epic confrontation between the United States and its North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies and the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact partners had affected international relationships around the globe. However, as the late 1980s dawned, the walls that separated Western and Eastern Europe were suddenly coming down.

While the end of the Cold War ushered in feelings of great hope for a new future, it was also accompanied by great uncertainty. The answer came, in part, through a revolutionary new program: the National Guard-led State Partnership Program.

Today, more than two decades after the launch of the first SPP efforts, the program has grown into a world-wide program that has put thousands of National Guardsmen in touch with counterparts from more than 100 different nations. In Nebraska, this year marked the 23rd anniversary of its participation in SPP as a partner (along with the Texas National Guard) with members of the Czech Republic.

In 2016, this partnership involved 34 separate exchanges between the Czech military and members of the Nebraska and Texas National Guard. These engagements involved such activities as special operations air tasking unit events, air field firefighting activities, CBRN site response exchanges, explosive ordnance disposal Talon implementation, a logistical planning seminar and the first-ever exchange designed to help the Czech military develop noncommissioned officer military education programs, which will graduate its first class in 2017.

Additionally, this year saw a visit to Nebraska by Lt. Gen. Jiri Baloun, first deputy chief of the General Staff of the Czech Ministry of Defense, on May 6-9. He was accompanied to Nebraska by several members of his staff to include the senior enlisted leader of the Czech military, Chief Warrant Officer Petr Seifert.

"I am very glad that I am here," said Baloun on the second day of his visit while watching the opening acts of the 2016 Guardians of Freedom airshow and open house in Lincoln, Nebraska. While in Nebraska, Baloun and party received a briefing from Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac and Nebraska National Guard officials at the Joint Force Headquarters in Lincoln before touring the Nebraska



Nebraska National Guard photos

(Above) Building Partnerships: Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac and Command Chief Master Sgt. Doug Lierz pose in front of a Czech Air Force helicopter with senior leaders from the Texas National Guard and the Czech military during a senior leader exchange in November. **(Below):** A Czech Air Force Saab JAS-39 Gripen fighter pulls into position behind a Nebraska Air National Guard KC-135R Stratotanker boom during air refueling training in Europe.

Guard's facilities at the Mead training site where they learned more about Nebraska's CBRN Enhance Response Force Package (CERFP). The group was also made honorary Nebraska citizens by Nebraska Secretary of State John Gale and attended an airshow barbecue at the Nebraska Air National Guard air base.

"I think (the senior leader exchanges are) incredibly important in terms of trust level," said Bohac about the Czech visit.

Baloun agreed, saying the visit enabled him to learn more about the Czech Republic's partners' capabilities, which in turn will help Czech senior leaders better understand how the Czech military can engage and work with Guardsmen from Nebraska and Texas.

He singled out his interest in developing more engagements within the strategic air refueling, air traffic control and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) fields.

Baloun said that after more than two decades of partnership with the Nebraska and Texas National Guard, the Czech Republic continues to see significant value in the relationship. "I would say it's valuable because we can compare techniques and tactics," he said, before adding: "Maybe one

of the most important bonuses is that the Soldiers can meet each other; they can understand each other... it's about the exchange of knowledge and information."

The visit to Nebraska was followed by a return senior leader visit to the Czech Republic late in 2016 by Bohac, Command Chief Master Sgt. Douglas Lierz and Texas National Guard senior leaders where they discussed upcoming events scheduled to take place in 2017. These events will focus on Land/Air forces interoperability, operational logistics and professional development.



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



Photo by Spc. Anna Pongo

Maintainance: Amy Dirks, natural resource manager at the Nebraska Army National Guard's Environmental Office, checks the batteries and SD card in a survey trail camera at Camp Ashland. The trail camera was placed as part of an environmental survey conducted across Camp Ashland, Neb.



Morning Walk: A lone coyote walks across the ice of the Platte River and happens to get his picture taken by a trail camera right beside the river at Camp Ashlan. 2016 was the first year that trail cameras were used at the Nebraska National Guard camp.

Nebraska Military Department focuses on protecting critical environmental resources

Protecting the environment, especially within the Nebraska Military Department's facilities and training areas, continued to be an area of considerable emphasis for the National Guard.

Nationally, the National Guard continues to be a leader within the Department of Defense in conservation and sustainability efforts through such efforts as decreasing water consumption nationally by 786.3 million gallons by the Army National Guard and 51.2 million gallons by the Air National Guard since 2013.

Closer to home, the efforts by members of the Nebraska National Guard were definitely significant in 2016.

For example, members of the Nebraska Army National Guard's Environmental Branch annually participate in community engagement activities designed to give members of the Nebraska Military Department and local communities to participate in, have conversations on and learn more about environmental issues affecting the Nebraska National Guard and the steps the Nebraska Military Department is taking to minimize the organization's environmental impact. One such program is "Operation Bald Eagle." In this program, third grade students from Ashland-Greenwood Public School are visited by members

of the Nebraska Military Department's Environmental Branch to learn about the importance of protecting Bald Eagle habitats and then challenged to help name newly-hatched Bald Eagle chicks at nearby Camp Ashland. Later in the spring, the students travel to Camp Ashland to view the Bald Eagles' nests while also learning more about the importance of protecting threatened and endangered species.

The Nebraska Army National Guard's Environmental Branch has also teamed with local and state agencies to conduct wildland fire training on the Nebraska National Guard's training facilities, which then culminates with aerial/ground firefighting training conducted in conjunction with prescribed burning efforts to minimize risks of wildland fires later in the year.

The Nebraska Army National Guard also provides 4,243 acres of agricultural lease land for hay crops across the state. The hay lease program offers an agricultural opportunity for local farm communities while promoting positive connections with Nebraskans living and working near Nebraska Military Department facilities and training areas. This program assists in the Nebraska Military Department's land management assistance, wildland fire suppression, invasive vegetation control and funding efforts.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Military Department's community outreach focuses on building, strengthening binds to Nebraska's citizens

The Nebraska Military Department continued to reach out to communities across Nebraska in 2016 to strengthen the binds between the organization and the communities that support it. The overall goal of this community outreach program was laid out, in detail, in 2015 when the Nebraska Military Department published its strategic plan that identified community support as one of the organization's enduring priorities:

"Our role of providing homeland defense incorporates the responsibilities of engaging and partnering with our local community leaders. We will continue to leverage and create community-based partnerships by 'telling our story' and reflecting those values and professional traits that the Nebraska Military Department represents. We need to continue working with federal, state, and local agencies to market National Guard members as highly skilled civilian employees."

Community outreach has long been a priority for the Nebraska Army and Air National Guard, and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. At their heart, all three organizations draw their lineage back to their community-based origins. The Nebraska National Guard has long been organized as a community-based military organization focused on providing support to state or national-level leaders during natural or man-made emergencies. This is particularly important today where Soldiers and Airmen are recruited into the Army and Air National Guard's ranks from local communities across the nation, receive training at active military posts and bases across the United States, and then return to Nebraska where they train for wide-ranging local, state or national emergencies.

The same can be said of the Nebraska Emergency Management and the entire Nebraska Military Department. While both organizations work at both the state and national-levels in preparing for wide-ranging emergency response and coordination missions, at the heart of both missions is a focus upon providing Nebraskans with the support they need, especially when they need it the most.

So, while the Nebraska National Guard has responsibility to focus on potential missions at the state or national-level, officials at all levels of the organization realize that they can never lose sight of the families, civilian employers and communities that give Nebraska Soldiers and Airmen the ability to be ready and



Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

Thanking Their Community: Members of the 2016 Warrant Officer Candidate class conduct their community service project by painting a picnic shelter in the Ashland City Park.

reliable whenever they are needed.

This community outreach takes many shapes and forms, ranging from the Military Department's participation in a number of state-wide efforts to address such ongoing concerns as medical and psychological treatment, suicide prevention, combatting sexual assault and sexual harassment, diversity recruitment efforts, to addressing new and recurring civilian employment problems caused by National Guard training or deployment responsibilities.

Along with these activities, in 2016 the Nebraska Army and Air National Guard conducted numerous community outreach activities that included dozens of military equipment static displays, tours of Nebraska National Guard facilities, civic leader orientation flights, military band concerts, veterans service pinning activities, and numerous briefings and speaking engagements that numbered more than 80 separate events on Veterans Day alone. Additionally, members of the Nebraska National Guard participated in the annual Lincoln/National Guard Marathon, the annual Cornhusker State Games, and Operation Santa Claus in December.

Probably the two most visible of these outreach activities in 2016 were the Nebraska National Guard's participation in the May 7-8 "Guardians of Freedom" open house and airshow that attracted more than 200,000 spectators to the Lincoln Municipal Airport (*see page 37*) and the Nebraska National Guard's participation in the Oct. 15-17 Boy Scouts of America, Mid-America Council Jubilee at the Eugene T. Mahoney State Park.

This marked the first time that the Nebraska National Guard supported the Boy Scout Jubilee, which included static displays of military vehicles and aircraft, equipment demonstrations and opportunities for the scouts and their families to interact with members of the Nebraska Army and Air National Guard.

Along with the National Guard's efforts, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency continued to focus on community outreach programs. Probably the most visible example is annual "Severe Weather Awareness" poster contest.

GUARDIANS OF FREEDOM OPEN HOUSE



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mary Thach

High Flying Salute: Cadet 1st Class Cameron Kistler, a member of the U.S. Air Force Wings of Blue parachute team, salutes as he steps off the back of a Nebraska Army National Guard CH-47 Chinook helicopter during his May 7 performance at the Guardians of Freedom airshow and open house in Lincoln.



Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

Break Away: The U.S. Navy's Blue Angels perform a breakaway technique during their May 8 performance at the Guardians of Freedom airshow and open house.

Military salutes Nebraskans during airshow

On May 7-8, 2016, the U.S. Navy's famed Blue Angels returned to Lincoln, Nebraska, to headline the Guardians of Freedom airshow and open house. The event was hosted jointly by the Nebraska National Guard, the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and the Lincoln Municipal Airport.

The first day of the airshow was cut disappointingly short when winds from the north, smoky from Canadian wildfires, dropped local air quality to dangerously low levels. The next morning, however, more than 100,000 people came back to the show grounds undeterred, ready to make up for lost time.

The show was headlined by the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels, the U.S. Air Force Academy's Wings of Blue parachute team, World War II-era fighter planes, the stealthy F-22 Raptor and a heritage flight between the F-22 and a P-38 Lightning. Together, the planes and people were unified by a desire to honor the men and women of the United States military.

The show paid homage not only to past and present flyers, but to veterans of every branch of the U.S. Military, including those who died for their country.

"On days like this, as we watch highly trained aviators perform their amazing acts, it's important for us as a community to remember that days like today simply wouldn't be possible if it weren't for the dedicated service of America's military men and women," said Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac, Nebraska adjutant general.

According to Lt. Col. Christopher Hesse, 173rd Air Refueling Squadron commander and airshow and open house director, the event was designed to help show appreciation to the community

for its support of the Nebraska National Guard and other military components by giving people the ability to see firsthand present and past military equipment, and the men and women who operate them.

"It's very humbling," Hesse said of his privilege to lead the preparations of the airshow and open house. "(This airshow and open house) serves to highlight the men and women of the Nebraska National Guard – our equipment, our capabilities – as well as the city of Lincoln, and the Airport Authority, as well as what we do for the city and the region."

The prime time performers of the show, the Blue Angels, concluded the airshow with an introduction flight by the Blue Angels' C-130 Fat Albert. Then, the highly-skilled sextet of pilots from Pensacola, Florida, wowed the crowd not as daredevils escaping scrapes with death, but as technicians exacting surgical precision, completing highly-refined, real-life combat maneuvers in rapid succession in their F/A-18 Hornets.

In perfect formations, the dazzling navy blue planes with goldenrod lettering approached the viewing area in tightknit clusters, then diverged and re-converged at nearly the speed of sound.

With diamond rolls, dirty loops and opposing passes of all sorts, the Blue Angel pilots continued a legacy of past and present military aviators seven decades in the making.

Nearly 1,000 Airmen from the 155th Air Refueling Wing, together with Soldiers from the Nebraska National Guard and partners from the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and Lincoln Airport Authority, helped make the airshow a success.



Photo by Lt. Col. Kevin Hynes

Heads Up: A crowd of people point their cameras and eyes to the Lincoln skies during the May 8 Guardians of Freedom airshow and open house.

NEBRASKA MILITARY DEPARTMENT HISTORY

Nebraska Guard's story began 162 years ago, community-based legacy continues today

The Nebraska National Guard draws its lineage back to Dec. 23, 1854, when then-acting Territorial Governor Thomas Cuming issued a proclamation encouraging the settlers of the territory to organize into militia units, with one regiment being formed south of the Platte River and one to the north. These two Nebraska infantry regiments were then organized into a brigade structure under the command of Brig. Gen. John M. Thayer, who would one day become Nebraska's sixth governor.

During its 162-year history, a total of 109 Nebraska communities have hosted Nebraska militia or National Guard units. Out of these communities came thousands of Nebraska National Guard men and women who stood ready to assist their communities, state and nation following natural disaster and state/national emergencies. Today, members of the Army and Air National Guard continue that legacy while serving as the major combat reserve forces for the active Army and Air Force.

The Nebraska Guard's first major combat deployment occurred during the Civil War when more than 3,300 Nebraska militiamen saw action as a part of seven different Union Army units.

Nebraska National Guard Soldiers later saw action during the Spanish-American War, the Mexican Border Dispute, World War I and during World War II where Nebraska Soldiers fought in the European Theater during the the Battles of St. Lo, Mortain, Gremecey Defense, Nancy, Habbkirchen, the Ardennes, the Roer River and the Ruhr Pocket.

Nebraska Army National Guard units were also mobilized for the Korean War, the Berlin Crisis, Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, peacekeeping duties in Kuwait, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo, as well as in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait and numerous other locations around the globe and in the United States since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

While deployed these Soldiers provided combat, aviation, medical, logistical, transportation, engineering, forward support, maintenance, ordnance and battlefield surveillance capabilities to U.S. forces

The Nebraska Air National Guard is the second oldest Air National Guard unit in the nation. The 173rd Fighter Squadron

was assigned to the Nebraska Air National Guard and activated on July 26, 1946. The unit was mobilized for the Korean War in April 1951 and initially put into service as a part of the 132nd Fighter-Bomber Wing at Dow Air Force Base, Maine.

Following the Korean War, the Nebraska Air National Guard returned to Lincoln where, for the next three decades, it flew the P-51 Mustang, the F-80 Shooting Star, the F-86D Sabre, the RF-84 Thunderflash and the RF-4C Phantom II. On July 1, 1960, the 173rd became part of the 155th Fighter Group.

In April, 1992, the 155th was directed to transition to the KC-135R Stratotanker aircraft. The unit was redesignated as the 155th Air Refueling Wing on Oct. 1, 1995, and soon began flying missions around the world in support of U.S., NATO and United Nations' peacekeeping efforts, including the organization's first combat missions during Operation Allied Force, the bombing of Kosovo and Serbia in early 1999.

Following Sept. 11, 2001, the Nebraska Air National Guard began flying combat air patrol aerial refueling flights in support of Operation Noble Eagle. Since then, members of the Nebraska Air National Guard – which now includes

the 170th Group at Offutt Air Force Base – have flown support missions and provided significant support functions around the globe in support of numerous missions to include Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn and many more.

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, formerly known as the Civil Defense Agency, has been a part of the Nebraska Military Department since 1951, with the adjutant general serving as the agency's director and an assistant director conducting day-to-day operations. The agency was officially renamed in 1996.

NEMA is the primary state agency charged with responding to state emergencies such as floods, blizzards, tornados, droughts and range fires. Since its name change in 1996, NEMA has been charged with providing emergency management support to number of major emergencies including the October Surprise

Blizzard of 1997, coordinating support to the Southeastern U.S. Gulf coast following Hurricanes Katrina, Gustav and Ike during the mid-1990s, historic flooding on the Platte and Missouri Rivers in 2011, range land fires near Chadron in 2012, and the tornado relief efforts in Beaver Crossing and Pilger in 2014.



Early Soldier: Col. Robert R. Livingston from Plattsmouth replaced Col. John Thayer as commander of the 1st Nebraska in 1862.



Early Airmen: L. Jones, Mitchell, A. Els, C. Lightner and L. Benedict stand in front of a Nebraska Air Guard P-51 Mustang fighter in 1947.

MUSEUM UPDATE



Photos by Gerry Meyer

Leap Of Faith: The new airborne exhibit at the Nebraska National Guard Museum in Seward, Neb., is designed to replicate the feeling of an airborne jump.



Up We Go, Into The Wild Blue Yonder: A Nebraska National Guard Curtiss Model D “Pusher” airplane takes flight as a team of volunteers carefully moves the new aircraft exhibit into place in 2016.

National Guard Museum marks many firsts

The Nebraska National Guard’s new museum at Seward, Neb., continued to make major steps in 2016, including the dedication of its first permanent exhibits, the installation of the first two temporary historical galleries, and the first visits by local school students.

The Nebraska National Guard Museum effort dates back to roughly 2013 when the Seward armory was selected to be the new home of the Guard’s museum. Previously, the museum was housed at the State Arsenal Building on the old State Fair Grounds in Lincoln.

In July 2015, the building was dedicated following several construction phases that turned the old armory into the museum “shell.” On July 4, 2016, the museum’s first major displays were unveiled and dedicated during a ceremony kicking off Seward’s annual 4th of July ceremonies.

The dedication ceremony brought together leaders from the Nebraska National Guard, the Nebraska National Guard Historical Society and the local Seward area. “It is through your efforts that we have achieved what we have here today: the opening chapter of what we believe will be one of the best National Guard museums in the country,” said Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac, Nebraska adjutant general, who added that the museum is about preserving and telling a critical piece of Nebraska’s history. “Make no mistake, this is an extremely important endeavor. If we do not preserve and tell the story about the Nebraska National Guard, then who will? Who will tell these amazing stories? Who will tell the future generations about those who served before them and protected their fellow citizens and defended the freedoms that we hold so dear?”

Among the displays dedicated was a replica of a Curtis Model D “Pusher” aircraft that was first flown by members of the Nebraska National Guard in Fremont in 1913 and later by two Nebraska National Guard officers including Capt. Ralph McMillen, who used his self-funded aircraft to conduct military aviation experiments that included aerial photography and

motion pictures, cross-country navigation and aerial bombing, which he did by dropping flour sacks onto various Lincoln facilities including the state penitentiary, capitol and a local street car.

McMillen would later lose his life in an aircraft accident on Sept. 1, 1916. The new “Century of Nebraska National Guard Aviation” exhibit, which was sponsored by the John Cattle family and Cattle National Bank and Trust Company, is dedicated in memory of McMillen.

Along with the aviation display, the museum’s new learning center, sponsored by Concordia University in Seward, and a new theater, sponsored by Jones National Bank, were also both dedicated on July 4. Those dedications were then followed by the dedication of a new airborne exhibit in August that features a replica of two Nebraska National Guard paratroopers exiting a replica of a C-130 aircraft in honor of the Nebraska Army National Guard’s airborne heritage that includes Detachment 2, 168th Quartermaster Company, which was the last unit to be stationed at the Seward armory before its transition into a museum. That airborne exhibit was sponsored by the Berry Law Firm of Lincoln and the Charles Nitz family of Seward.

The museum also achieved several other firsts including its inaugural educational outreach programs when students from Seward Junior High School and High School, and Crete Middle School traveled to the museum for classes on World War I, World War II and Prisoners of War. Concordia University Global Studies students also attended classes in the museum on Afghanistan.

The museum also hosted its first “Run to St. Lo” memorial 5-kilometer road race in June in commemoration of the Nebraska Army National Guard’s role during the bloody battle of St. Lo, France, in July 1944.

The work had a definite payoff as well. By the end of December more than 13,600 patrons had visited the museum, the largest single-year attendance since the founding of the Nebraska National Guard museum in the mid-1980s.

OUR WAY AHEAD

As the Nebraska Military Department enters 2017, we enter it with renewed hope, focus and determination to face and overcome the challenges that we know will undoubtedly arrive.

Mostly, though, we begin this year with a deep sense of appreciation for the support that we've received from our fellow Nebraskans. Without this support, it would be much more difficult – possibly even impossible – to have achieved all that we have up to this point, and all that we will be called upon to do during the months ahead.

As 2016 demonstrated, the world in which we live and operate is continually changing. That's why it is imperative to the health of our state and nation that we, too, continue to smartly evolve and adapt our training and capabilities so that we have the ability and the flexibility to successfully meet and overcome these predictably unpredictable challenges.

And that's what the Nebraska Military Department is committed to doing.

For the Nebraska Army National Guard, 2017 will continue to be a year of transition. However, with the opportunities that standing up new units across Nebraska will bring, there will also be challenges. In particular, for a large segment of the Nebraska Army National Guard community, 2017 will mean retraining into new military career fields. Fortunately, we have received significant funding for training over this next fiscal year. We must now help our Soldiers to be prepared for that training by helping remove the barriers that hinder their successful completion. We need to make sure that our Soldiers meet required Army Physical Fitness Testing scores to attend reclassification schools. We must also ensure that our Soldiers complete their required Structured Self-Development (SSD) training so that they can attend their military leadership courses.

And we must also continue to prepare our Soldiers and their units for overseas deployments while supporting those families and civilian employers who are left behind.

For the Nebraska Air National Guard, 2017 will undoubtedly be another busy and demanding year as our Airmen continue to deploy overseas at a very high rate in support of our nation's commitments around the globe, including the current warfighting operations within the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. That will make it extremely important that we

continuously monitor the impact that these deployments have on our Airmen and their units, and provide them with the support they, their families and their employers will need during what continues to be a multi-year era of extremely high operational tempos.

For the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, 2017 will be about continuing to engage with communities and local emergency managers. We have to continue to think about being innovative while helping local communities build their own resilience so if and when disaster strikes, these communities will already have the tools they need.

Fortunately, we have both the experience of the past year and those gained over the past 162 years of our organization's history to lean upon.

When you think back about what it has meant to be a member of the Nebraska National Guard – or the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency – since Dec. 23, 1854, when acting Territorial Governor Thomas Cuming encouraged the citizens of the territory to form into militia units, you quickly realize that what he was doing was encouraging Nebraskans to create one force of brave and committed citizens to protect others. That's our heritage.

That's why we have this organization: to protect the citizens of this state and this nation.

I take great pride in our Nebraska Military Department team – and the families, employers and communities that support us – has the commitment and the vision to guide us successfully into the future so that we will continue to live up to our National Guard's motto: "Always Ready, Always There."

On behalf of all the members of the Nebraska Military Department, Nebraska Army and Air National Guard, and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, thank you for your continued support.



Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac
Nebraska Adjutant General and
Director of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

